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May 18, 2014 **No 608** **www.kentnews.co.uk**

Perils of the protest vote being delivered at wrong election

WHATEVER your political allegiance, when the local or European elections come around, more often than not, we consider flexing our electoral muscle and deploying what is commonly known as the protest vote.

There is much talk of giving our normal party of choice 'a bloody nose' or a 'wake-up call', as if only a general election means something.

Yet it is a dangerous game to play. After all, if you care about the community you live in, when it comes to local council elections, you should want to place it into the hands of a party and individuals you can put your trust in. Putting your cross next to a minority party as a 'gesture' is one which will continue to be felt for years to come – especially if enough people take similiar steps and thus skew the result.

And that same thought process applies to the European elections – but perhaps more so as it is hard to see the impact it has on us or how it works. A protest vote here, we think, will have little impact.

Yet opinion polls suggest we care greatly, one way or the other, about Europe.

The most likely recipient of that protest vote would appear to be Ukip, a party which fails to disguise its disapproval for our part of the union.

But Ukip could win every seat in the UK and it wouldn't bring about our withdrawal from Europe. That is a choice for Westminster. Where it has not one representative.

All of which should make everyone think long and hard about when to make their 'protest' vote and how to make it when it will have, potentially, the biggest impact. And that may be this time next year.

Whatever, the Euro poll will provide some fascinating results. Just don't forget to vote.

Editor **Chris Britcher**

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Farage to stand in county for 2015, says party chief

By Sarah Linney
sarah.linney@archant.co.uk

FOCUS: Nigel Farage is expected to declare his intention to run as a Kent MP after the Euro elections

UKIP has all but confirmed Nigel Farage is to stand in Kent at the next general election.

The maverick party leader, who is standing for re-election as an MEP for the south east on Thursday, told Kent on Sunday: "I expect I will stand."

He added: "I am 11 days away from the European elections – I will make my mind up after that."

But according to Ukip's leader on Kent County Council, the plan has always been for the 50-year-old former stockbroker to stand in the county where he grew up and still lives.

Roger Latchford said: "He has always made it clear that being a Kent boy, he would stand in Kent,"

"But we must all be patient and wait until after Thursday."

He said he had no idea where in Kent Mr Farage, who lives in Westerham, would choose to stand – but that the party definitely considered his election to Westminster a realistic prospect.

Cllr Latchford said: "We will very possibly field a number of candidates in Kent.

"Like the European elections, we will take the General Election extremely seriously. As far as we are concerned, the campaign will start the week after the European elections. We will be looking for candidates and getting our manifesto together.

"Our aim is not just to win a seat, but as many seats as we can. We are not only taking votes from the Tories, we are taking them from Labour and the Liberal Democrats too.

"How many candidates we will put up is still to be decided but we will put quality before quantity."

It is widely believed that, although Mr Farage lives in west Kent, he will stand in a seat in the east of the county where support for Ukip is strong.

The two most likely constituencies are Thanet South and Folkestone and Hythe, where Ukip proved popular at the county council elections. Shepway has four Ukip county councillors out of six, and Thanet seven out of eight.

Both seats are held by the Conservatives right now – Damian Collins has a 10,122 majority in Folkestone and Hythe, while Laura Sandys has a 7,617 majority in Thanet South. However, Mrs Sandys is not standing at next year's general election.

If he was elected as an MP, Mr Farage would not be able to continue as an MEP.

Turn inside for our extensive build-up to the Euro elections.

Nervous wait as tests for contamination are carried out on estate

FAMILIES on a Paddock Wood housing estate have been told their children can play in their gardens while a soil contamination investigation gets under way.

Over 260 homes were built 20 years ago over the site of an old factory that made garden sheds and greenhouses.

New legislation changes mean all UK councils have to look again at old planning permissions to ensure the land properties were built on, meets new up-to-date requirements.

Tunbridge Wells council officials have spent "plenty of desk time" doing just that, but the site at Paddock Wood stood out.

The decision was taken to check the soil once more for possible contaminants, including asbestos and creosote type chemicals associated with the commercial construction of wooden buildings and their treatments.

Letters were sent to all of the homes in a catchment area that takes in The Ridings, Dimmock Close and Le Temple Road.

Two drop-in information sessions have also been held in the area, and a council source told us families were not angry, but somewhat frustrated their homes have been tarnished by the investigation.

However, it remains unclear who would then be liable for making the ground safe if contaminants were found.

Gary Stevenson, head of environment and street scene at the authority, said: "We have contacted residents who live within the area of the former Hall's site in Paddock Wood because we need to investigate this land in light of the fact that it was once used for the manufacture of timber sheds and greenhouses, which involved timber treatment.

"From our investigations it has not been possible to confirm that the site was cleared of waste materials before the houses were built so we now need to take samples of the soil to provide reassurance to the residents. We will continue to keep them informed."

Hundreds set to gather for hospice closure meeting

A SERIES of public meetings are to take place to discuss the decision last week by the Pilgrims Hospice to close its site in Canterbury.

As we reported last week, it made the decision as part of a wider overview of changes to its range of services – and a switch in some areas to boosting its in-home care. The Canterbury site will continue until 2016.

The first meeting will be at the Canterbury Academy on Friday, May 30, at 7pm. It will be in the school's main hall, which is expected to be filled to its 500 capacity. If demand is high, an additional date will be added.

Medical director Dr Claire Butler said: "We want to fully and directly discuss our plans with the community."

To register for the meeting, call 01227 782064.

Golden girl picks up top title in special KCC presentation

OLYMPIC gold medallist Lizzy Yarnold has picked up another prestigious title following her heroics in Russia earlier this year.

Miss Arnold, 25, from West Kingsdown, won gold in the skeleton event at the Sochi Winter Games in February.

And this week she was presented with an award by the chairman of Kent County Council to recognise her achievement.

The Kent Invicta Award recognises those who have "achieved excellence in their chosen field or who have provided an exceptional service to the county".

She was presented with the title, and a cheque for £5,000 to donate to a charity of her choice, by out-going KCC chairman Eric Hotson.

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Phew! What a scorcher, as temperatures rocket

THE county is set for the hottest day of the year this weekend, with temperatures set to soar to 24C.

The Met Office says an influx of high pressure will see the county bathed in warm weather – the best of which will be on Sunday.

It will be warm in the evenings too, with temperatures still hitting double figures.

A Met Office spokesperson said: "Kent could see some of the hottest temperatures in the country so far this year. It's likely to have some of the best weather in the UK with temperatures between 23 and 24 on Sunday."

But it's not all good news – the Met Office have advised that although it's likely it will remain warm next week, rain is on its way back – just in time for the long bank holiday weekend...

Mixed fortunes for our airports as Lydd takes off and Manston crash lands

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

EFFORTS by campaigners to block ambitious expansion plans at Lydd Airport have been thrown out by the High Court.

The ruling, handed down on Friday morning, means that work on a £25 million scheme which would see the runway extended and facilities created to handle a huge boom in traffic, can now get under way.

Owners of the airport on the Romney Marsh hope to provide for up to 500,000 passengers a year.

But the Lydd Airport Action Group and the RSPB attempted to block the move and lodged a legal challenge following the initial go-ahead issued last year.

The High Court, however, said there were no grounds to withdraw permission.

Lydd Airport executive manager Hani Mutlaq said: "The judge has confirmed what we all knew; there was no legal basis for an appeal against the Government's decision to back our exciting plans for the redevelopment of Lydd Airport.

APPROVAL: Lydd Airport

"With this distraction behind us we can press ahead with delivering a project which will help regenerate this part of Kent, create jobs and bring hope to families throughout the area.

"The airport is now nearing completion of a number of pre-commencement conditions required to enable planning permission for the runway extension to be implemented.

"We hope to invite contractors to tender for the runway construction project in late summer and anticipate that work will begin before the end of the year."

It was not such good news this week for Manston Airport however.

After a desperate fight to keep it alive, and repeated bids by a US investment firm, the airport closed, as planned, on Thursday evening. It spelt the end for nearly 150 staff which work there.

Owner Ann Gloag rejected a bid which met her £7m asking price just an hour before staff left the site for the final time – a decision which prompted anger from local politicians and unions. For full reaction to its closure, turn to page 9.

CAR: Similar to this is up for sale

Fleming's 007 inspiration is up for sale

THE original Aston Martin which inspired James Bond author Ian Fleming when writing classic 007 book Goldfinger, is set to be sold under the auctioneer's hammer.

The Aston Martin DB 2/4 Mk1 was discovered in a Kent barn and could sell for as high as £250,000.

It used to be a regular visitor to a house in St Margaret's Bay near Mr Fleming's home.

It had been fitted with a host of special features, including reinforced steel bumpers and facilities for a homing device.

It had been owned by Philip Ingram Cunliffe-Lister DSO, whose father was Lord Swinton, a close confidant of Winston Churchill and head of MI5 and the security executive during the Second World War.

It was bought by a father and son team from Walmer who only realised what they had acquired after buying it as part of a restoration project.

Chris Routledge, managing partner of the auction house, said: "The vehicle was regularly at Fleming's direct next-door neighbour the same house which also inspired Drax's residence in the novel Moonraker."

It will be auctioned at Blenheim Palace on July 12.

Medway elects its mayor for the year

MEDWAY Council's new mayor took over the chains of office during the council's annual meeting on Wednesday night.

Conservative councillor for Rainham Central, Barry Kemp, takes over the role from Josie Iles.

Deputy mayor is Ray Maisey.

Cllr Kemp confirmed his chosen charities for his year in office are Medway Young Carers; Headway; Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance; Oliver Fisher Special Care Baby Trust and Streetcops Trust.

Although money is still being counted, it is estimated that the outgoing mayor raised around £8,000 for charity.

Her chosen charities were Age UK, Demelza, Caring Hands and Help for Heroes.

Cllr Kemp, said: "I am very pleased and very honoured to be asked to serve as the Mayor of Medway. For me, an important part of being mayor will be the opportunity I will now have to raise money for my chosen charities."

Jail term for sexually abusing teenage girl

A 51-year-old man from Tonbridge who committed a series of sex offences against a teenage girl has been jailed for more than seven years.

Andrew Bond, formerly of Silver Close, began abusing the girl in 2008. The abuse took place over four years, while the victim was under 16.

He told the victim she would get the blame and that 'everyone would hate her' if she told anyone about the abuse.

However, in September, 2013, she told her mother what had been happening and Bond handed himself in to police.

While being interviewed, he said he knew what he was doing was wrong but didn't know why he was unable to stop.

He was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison at Maidstone Crown Court after previously pleading guilty to a count of rape, one count of sexual assault of a child aged under 13 and four counts of engaging in sexual activity with a child under 16.

Prison for thug who attacked woman, 89

A TEENAGER who beat and robbed pensioners in their own homes, breaking the base of one woman's spine, has been jailed for ten-and-a-half years.

Aaron Davis, 18, beat 89-year-old Jean McDougall from Hextable, near Dartford, so hard that her false teeth came out and her glasses were broken.

She was left with a fracture to the base of her spine, a fractured nose and eye socket and other injuries consistent with being kicked repeatedly.

Police linked the assault to another attack in the same street the month before, when Davis assaulted an 81-year-old woman in her own home, stole golf clubs from her shed and then set the shed on fire.

Davis, of College Road, was caught with DNA linking him to the scene.

He was jailed at Maidstone Crown Court after admitting three counts of grievous bodily harm with intent, two counts of robbery and two counts of burglary.

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agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Details of pylon route all set to be unveiled

THE National Grid will this week confirm just how it intends to build a high voltage power connection between Richborough and Canterbury.

The Richborough Connection will link with the Nemo scheme, which sees the setting up of a 1,000 megawatt electricity link between Belgium and the UK.

Up to 70 pylons could be built stretching from the sub-station in Broad Oak Road to Richborough, near Sandwich, passing through Upstreet, Hersden, Chislet, Broad Oak and Sturry.

However, it is also thought possible some of the cabling may be run underground, amid growing concerns over the impact on the environment.

Details of the route, announced last year following a public consultation, will be unveiled during a special presentation in Canterbury on Tuesday.

Euro elections set to be platform for Ukip wins

THE county will take to the polling stations on Thursday for the European elections – with the UK Independence Party (Ukip) set to steal the headlines in the south east.

After an impressive showing in last year's county council elections, where Ukip became the main opposition party to the ruling Conservatives, it has spent millions in a bid to woo voters on May 22.

Currently, the only south east MEP for Ukip is its leader Nigel Farage, who lives in Westerham. He will be hoping to be joined by at least one more colleague by the time polls close.

Turn inside for our full coverage of the election.

...also

Boundary consultation

A PUBLIC consultation into changes to council ward boundaries across the Canterbury area closes on Tuesday.

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission propose the city council should have 39 councillors in the future, eleven fewer than today.

Hop Farm to host show

PADDOCK Wood's Hop Farm is to host the first West Kent Country Show next weekend.

The event runs across Sunday and Monday, with thousands expects to attend. Attractions include animal shows, historic re-enactments and arts and crafts.

Hunt for stolen statue

POLICE will be stepping up their hunt for a memorial statue for dead babies, stolen from a crematorium earlier this month.

The statue, donated by a charity, was taken from the Kent and Sussex Crematorium in Tunbridge Wells. Officers describe the crime as "simply despicable".

Cathedral gardens open

CANTERBURY Cathedral will open its 'secret gardens' to the public next week.

The annual event allows a rare chance to see private gardens maintained within the cathedral's grounds – while monies raised by the event goes to charity. Last year's event raised £10,000.

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Is housing on Mrs Gloag's agenda after 11th-hour Manston bid fails?

Despite investment firm RiverOak agreeing to pay the £7 million asking price for the Thanet airport amid assurances it would be sold, its owner has refused to do business and the site has been closed. Now concerns about the real intentions behind the scenes are growing, writes **Maria Chiorando**.

MANSTON Airport took its last breath on Thursday night – the tragic end to a drama that has raised more questions than answers and appears to have brought down the curtain on an historic site.

Or, at least, so it seemed as we went to press.

There remains the opportunity for a buyer to still secure a deal this weekend – but after another offer from an American investment firm that met the asking price of £7 million was rejected, it only added fuel to a growing fire that owner Ann Gloag has other plans for the site.

Mrs Gloag, who made her name through creating the Stagecoach transport empire, spent the week apparently oblivious to the upset her decisions were taking – instead pursuing some charity work in Africa.

She has consistently refused to speak to the media about her involvement with Manston, while her spokeswoman refused to elaborate on what happens next to the Thanet site.

Over recent weeks, US investor RiverOak has made three offers – thought to have started at £5m and risen in million-pound increments.

It confirmed to Kent on Sunday on Thursday afternoon its final bid had been for the full £7m asking price.

Mrs Gloag had purchased the site for £1 – with around £350,000 of debt – last October.

She claimed deals with Ryanair and British Airways she expected to agree came to nothing, hence her decision of putting it on the market.

However, now there are growing concerns that her motives may have been influenced by the potential of the land for developing and housing.

OFF THE RADAR: Manston Airport closed its doors for the last time on Thursday… but where does its future lie now?

There are issues connected to that, however. As a former MoD site, there are issues of contamination.

Conservative MP Sir Roger Gale – who says he will support any bid by the union Unite to file grievance procedures against the owners – was left furious by the situation. He met Mrs Gloag several weeks ago and was assured she wanted to sell.

He told KoS this week: "It is absurd. For a woman who claims to be charitable, some great philanthropist and a Christian, well, putting 150 people out of work, you have to ask yourself why.

"This is absolutely wrong and I have every intention of raising it in much greater depth at government level."

Earlier in the week he raised the issue during Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons. Prime Minister David Cameron assured him transport minister Patrick McLoughlin would speak to Mrs Gloag – but he too was unable to get hold of her.

Ian McCoulough, regional officer from Unite, insisted that while the airport had closed, the fight was far from over.

He said: "My view is that Manston Skyport [the company set up by Ann Gloag to own the site] can have had two reasons for prevaricating: one, they were trying to ramp the price up at the last minute; the other is they never had any intention of selling in the first place.

"We think they've lied to us in regards to the bidding process. We knew there were people trying to get bids in, and they can't contact Manston Skyport.

"We will be seeking legal advice."

> **"My view is: one, they were trying to ramp the price up at the last minute; the other is they never had any intention of selling in the first place"**
>
> **Ian McCoulough,** Regional officer of union Unite

Charles Buchanan, chief executive of the airport and in charge of its day-to-day running since it was in the hands of former owner Infratil, refused to comment to KoS as he left the airport on Thursday.

Thanet District Council's new leader (see story below) Iris Johnston said: "It's 150 jobs, it's people that would have to uproot and take children out of schools.

"We do need this airport, absolutely."

RiverOak said on Friday it was "considering its options" about the airport.

However, time is running out.

Earlier in the week it said it could still move on it a "few days" after closure, but if it extended to weeks it may prove too much to revive it.

■ **What do you think? Share your view and join the debate. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**

'Toxic' council has new head after leader's shock resignation

ATTACK: Councillor Clive Hart

THANET District Council elected Labour's Iris Johnston as its new leader on Thursday night, following the dramatic resignation earlier in the week of Clive Hart.

He stepped down amid claims of rebellion in the ranks and fury over the actions of some fellow councillors.

Labour has only a wafer-thin advantage over the Conservative Party locally, with Cllr Johnston beating Tory leader Bob Bayford by just two votes.

Following her victory, Cllr Johnston told KoS: "I am very pleased we have been able to move forward. I'm very thankful to Clive Hart for all his help in the past week and I will be relying on his experience as leader."

Cllr Hart stepped down on Monday. He wrote a protracted and emotional post on Facebook, outlining his decision to resign.

He highlighted constant attacks by former Labour councillor, now Green Party representative, Ian Driver as one of the reasons behind his decision.

He said: "For the past two-and-a half-years years I have succeeded in holding together a council consistently under siege from within due to Cllr Driver's persistently negative and disruptive actions."

He went on to accuse Cllr Driver of wasting council time with complaints and freedom of information requests, secretly filming his colleagues and publishing sensitive material on the internet.

He said he could not continue to take responsibility for a council that contained such "toxic behaviour", adding: "I therefore regretfully resign as the leader of Thanet District Council".

Cllr Driver has been particularly vocal about Cllr Hart's style of leadership, both during and after his stint as council leader, frequently accusing him of being "very frugal with information".

Cllr Johnston said: "Clive's resignation was not a surprise. He resigned because he had been under a tremendous amount of pressure.

"It was a shame. I was very sorry he decided to step down because we had one more year to run of his leadership. I knew he was under some stress."

In a further disruption to the cabinet, following the vote, deputy leader Alan Poole also quit, following the resignation of Michelle Fenner and Kim Gibson.

All three members not only stepped down from the cabinet but also resigned from the Labour Party to stand as independent representatives.

Cllr Johnston said: "They are exceptionally hard-working people and I know they are working toward the greater good of Thanet, whatever party they stand for."

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Rise and rise of the beach hut has hundreds of us plotting our move

To some they are simply a 'shed with a view', but these days huts by the county's beaches are much in demand. In fact they are helping bring much-needed tourism into our seaside towns, as **Chris Murphy** reports

EARLIER this month, Canterbury City Council mailed out details to those who had expressed an interest details of how to buy a number of new beach huts.

Along with more than 630 other privately-owned huts on council land, the often brightly-coloured buildings have become a popular site on the seafront.

From Whitstable to Herne Bay, they parade serenely along the seafront, contrasting with the shingle beach and murk of the estuary waters.

And they command a quite remarkable price.

For what is, some will say, simply a glorified 'shed with a view', the cost to acquire one of these sites will be £22,950. And that is assuming you are fast enough out of the blocks to get one. Demand is set to be high.

What's more, if you don't live in the district, you'll be paying £579 in rental charges this year for it, too.

The beach hut you'll own at the end will be several rows from the front on the picturesque Tankerton Slopes, have no running water or electricity, and you won't be able to sleep in them either.

Don't think that heading to the second-hand market will see you emerge with much change, either.

To buy one on second-hand – and potentially fractionally closer to the beach – will set you back £25,000. To nab one in the front row, you'll need £35,000 burning a hole in your back pocket.

David Cope is from beachhuts4hire.com, one of the main hubs for the buying and selling of beach huts. He told us: "The cost of owning one is much the same as measuring the length of a piece of string.

"There are some in Southwold that go for £100,000-plus. It is a case of supply and demand – in areas where there are lots, it is cheaper.

"Some families keep their beach huts for generations and they very rarely come on the market, but in some areas they are always available.

"After buying your hut, you own just the building and have to pay a sort of annual ground rent, of around £400, to the local councils that usually retain ownership of that ground. Insurance to cover damage, storms, theft and vandalism will cost around £100 a year, but again this will vary depending on what is kept inside.

"We are keen to get share schemes up and running where owners can rent their huts out to offset some of those costs. Some councils allow this and some don't – prospective and existing owners need to check with their local authority to ensure they understand all the rules.

"Rentals in Kent run to a couple of hundred pounds a week and it's a good way to see if you really enjoy the lifestyle.

"It is all terribly British to sit on your deckchair outside your beach hut with wonderful views and quietly watch the world go by.

"Some people kit out their huts with seating and have a small stove to cook up some lunch and perhaps a portable sink to do the washing-up."

He said people living in big cities like London were now heading for beaches in Kent and elsewhere in ever greater numbers, and interested in taking on a beach hut of their own.

He said: "It's just like the housing market. This once more can drive up prices. It is again all about supply and demand – if lots of people are showing an interest in a particular area, owners will edge their prices up."

And while Whitstable may be one of the more in-demand locations, it is far from alone.

The appetite for beach huts is booming. Which is remarkable for what started out in the 19th century as a way that shy ladies could venture into the sea without walking around in front of other people.

It's a far cry, too, from those early days when a hut could be rented for the princely sum of £12 a year,

Further along the coast, Thanet has long since embraced the lure of the beach hut. Your Leisure, the company that runs a host of council-owned properties, oversees some 600 plots that can be rented out to allow a hut to be placed and a similar number of plots that come with a hut pre-assembled.

Steve Davis is its managing director.

He said: "Ours are either six feet by six feet or eight by eight.

"We hire them weekly to help the holiday season and we have some people who want one on the bay for the whole year."

While the country may be stuck in an era of austerity, the demand continues to buck the trend and rise.

Mr Davis added: "Seasonal and annual, there is nothing available, they are all booked for next year. We have waiting lists that are quite large.

"We have got about 400-500 people on our waiting lists. Three years ago, we checked every person to see if they wanted to remain on the lists and many of them did.

"People are adding their names all the time.

"Weekly, there is some availability, but only off-peak, which is like May and June, but if you want July and August there is no chance.

"There is even a waiting list for these, but the August ones are like gold dust.

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"They go up for sale at the end of July for the following year and people queue up.

"We have a launch day every year and it is always very busy. We used to do it by email, but that used to take two days to go through so we had to change it slightly."

Residents can get some money off and make up the bulk of users.

Mr Davis says about 60 per cent of its customers live on the isle, about 30 per cent are from across the county and the outskirts of London and the rest are from "further afield".

He said: "I have been here doing this since 1999 and we had to change some of the weeklies into seasonals because there were fewer people wanting weeklies – there were fewer holiday-makers, basically."

The Thanet huts are equipped with a pair of deckchairs and a gas bottle with trivet so users can boil a kettle; some have a water tap inside and six in Kingsgate even have showers.

Mr Davis said: "We like to think they are well stocked with what most people would come to expect during their stay.

"I have been in discussion with the council to do what I call some upgraded models, and that is the way to go, I think."

He has also been looking to bolster the stock, but planning permission can be tricky, with some locals opposing their development.

Mr Davis said: "You are going to get people who don't want them. A lot of locals don't like people spoiling their beaches and promenades.

"We think these huts are here to stay. Since 1999 we have expanded their availability by about 25 per cent and there are still waiting lists.

"I would want to expand further, but it is always going to be difficult. We are concentrating on our bays with blue flags.

"Going back to when I was a child in the 1960s, all the bays in Cliftonville had many, many beach huts, but there are none now – they were all vandalised. We had a trial, but it didn't work, and that was that.

"Cliftonville used to have so many hotels and they would rent the huts for their guests to use.

"We do have some guest houses in Broadstairs that do that very thing today."

Prices for a seasonal hire from mid-April to mid-September is £735, annual is £915, winter is £375 and weekly £62 off-peak and £93 peak.

One of the key benefits is that it can lure in repeat custom. Owners will flock again and again, while the aesthetic benefits will also help swell the number of day-trippers.

In Swale, they've seen the benefits of the huts to other areas and are keen to follow in their footsteps.

> **"Going back to when I was a child in the 1960s, all the bays in Cliftonville had many, many huts, but there are none now – they were all vandalised"**

Steve Davis,
Your Leisure, in Thanet

Demand for 'your own little bolt hole' growing since the mid-90s

ARCHITECTURAL historian, author and lecturer Kathryn Ferry is an expert in design and seaside culture.

She told us: "Demand for beach huts started to increase in the mid-90s and shows no sign of decreasing despite the recession.

"People have rediscovered the great British seaside and beach huts offer a great opportunity to enjoy a slice of seafront property.

"Although some new ones have been built, demand still outstrips supply, hence the high prices in some areas."

But what about the promise they are a good investment?

She said: "Maybe. Prices have held their own, but lots of huts have been destroyed around the coast during the recent bad weather so they're hardly a very secure investment.

"You can't get a mortgage for a beach hut, so you have to have the money upfront.

"Of course, the hut itself only accounts for a fraction of the cost and can be replaced for much less than the usual asking price because it really is about location.

"My own view is that you should buy a beach hut because you want to use it, not because you want it to make you money – it's very sad to see rows of huts padlocked closed on a hot summer day. People should be enjoying them.

"They are really great places to relax – your own little bolt hole where you can watch the world go by and enjoy old-fashioned bucket-and-spade holidays with the children and/or grandchildren.

"But they are prone to storm damage and vandalism and usually have no water, electricity or drainage.

"These last points mean it is a kind of back-to-basics existence in a beach hut, but for some people this actually constitutes a pro rather than a con."

And the best places to look in Kent?

She said: "I think Whitstable has always been the most expensive, but Broadstairs is popular, with loads of huts spread over its several different bays."

The costs and ownership rights differ wildly, too. She said: "There is usually a basic cost plus rates and/or lease of site. Some are council-owned and leased, others are privately-owned – quite a lot of variety.

"Some huts are only available to local people, but again this depends on the place. Some councils have instituted a residency policy, but elsewhere it just depends on who is willing to pay what.

"I would imagine demand from Londoners is quite high, particularly at somewhere like Whitstable and neighbouring Tankerton Slopes.

"Kent is likely to be especially appealing to Londoners because of its proximity, but beach huts are often owned by people from further inland. This has always been the case because they offer a sort of home-from-home, ideal if you have to travel some distance but want a place to keep your beach stuff."

'Modesty' box to holiday home for the toiling classes

IT'S thought today's beach hut is a derivative of the old-fashioned wheeled bathing boxes.

These were used by ladies who didn't want to parade about on the beach in their swimwear in front of other people.

So the huts were wheeled into the shallows so she could simply open the door, have a paddle and clamber back into her 'modesty' box once more and change back into her normal clothes.

These early 'vehicles' existed as far back as 1862 and were seen on beaches not only in prudish England, but also France, Italy and as far away as Australia.

Since then, the wheels were removed in the early 20th century and they were turned into pretty much what we see today.

But back then, they were regarded as ''holiday homes for the toiling classes''.

It wasn't until the 1930s that their image was once more altered and the likes of George V and Queen Mary spent the day at a beach hut in Sussex.

Other notables include the Spencer family and Laurence Olivier. There was a crossover with fishermen using similar designs to store equipment.

After the closure of all UK beaches during the Second World War, the hut enjoyed a major revival in the following decades, but its popularity drove up prices.

What was once the preserve of the working class became the exclusive property of those with some cash behind them.

Demand was so high that those fishermen's huts were also converted in large numbers.

A spokesman for the council said: "A suggestion was made in 2012 to introduce beach huts on Sheppey.

"This created considerable interest from local residents and some of those residents formed the Minster Beach Hut Association, who now work with the council on the project.

"In 2013, 10 huts were purchased to be used by the members of the association and a further 10 owned by the council were built and were made available for lease for the period of the two-year pilot programme.

"We currently have approximately 300 people on the waiting list. The project has proved to be incredibly popular.

"We worked with local residents and Kent Police in the run-up to the trial period to ensure the huts were put in place in the most appropriate location. The project is part of our localism agenda and shows localism in best practice."

The current fee is £650 per year inclusive of VAT but exclusive of rates, which is yet to be calculated by the Valuation Office Agency.

Rules about the huts vary from council to council, but in general no one can sleep overnight in them, although authorities can find this is difficult to police.

You can't keep pets there, can't put up anything with an advertising feel, no barbecues and no storage other than the usual things associated with a day out at the beach.

Some allow gas bottles, but some don't, and any pets taken to a hut much be monitored at all times.

The Swale project was started by Mark Whitton, who was already a beach-hut fan and so set up the Minster association.

He told us: "It is all going well. We want to set up a café now in the Minster beach area and get the place into the 21st century."

It may yet prove that beach huts can be a catalyst for regeneration of an area, as much as they are capable of cashing in on an area's success.

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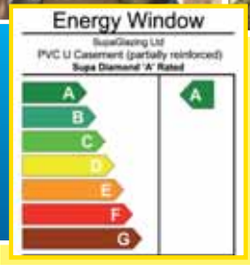

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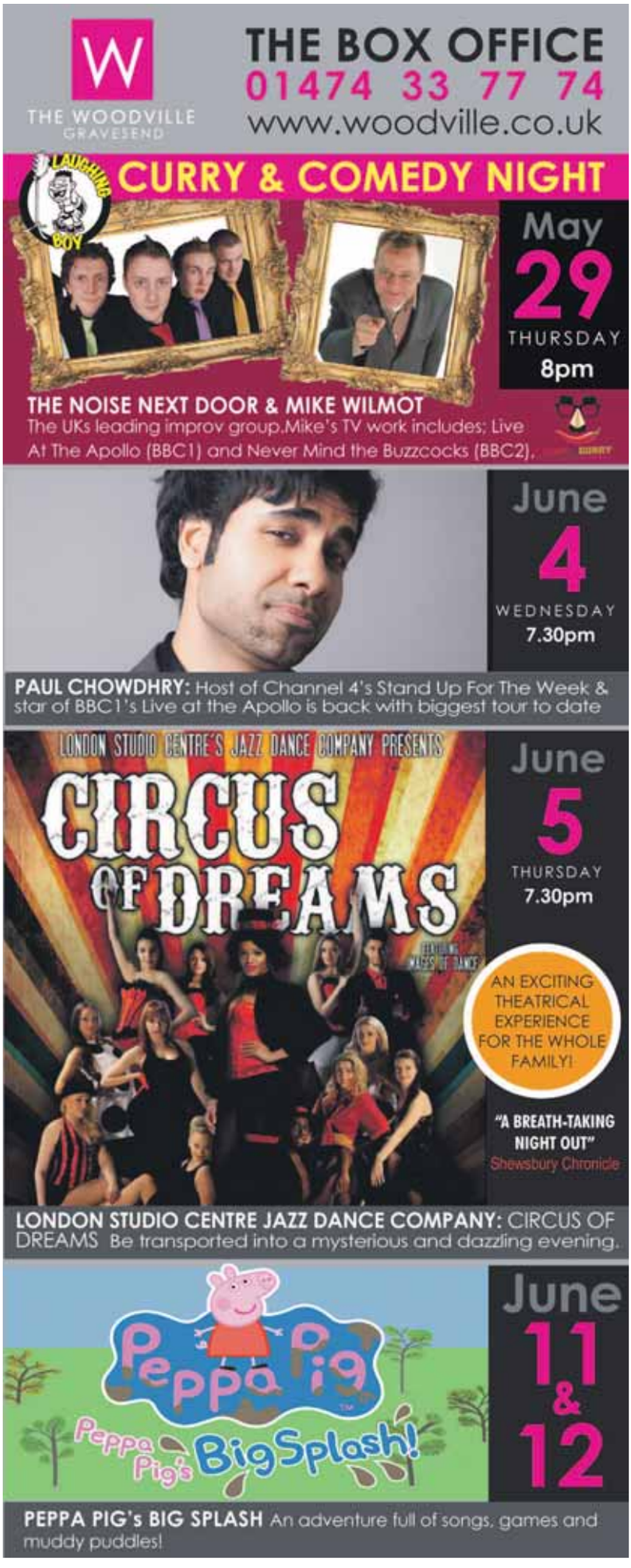

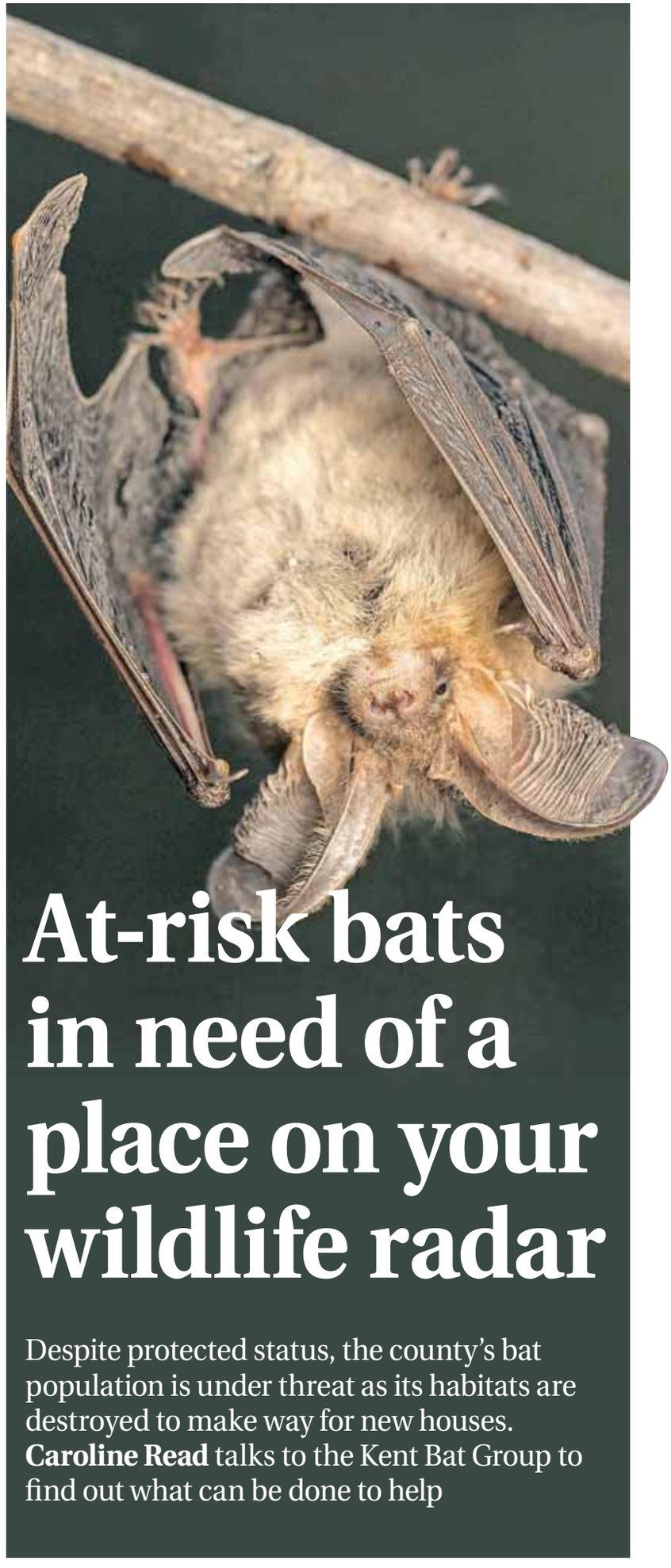

At-risk bats in need of a place on your wildlife radar

Despite protected status, the county's bat population is under threat as its habitats are destroyed to make way for new houses. **Caroline Read** talks to the Kent Bat Group to find out what can be done to help

THERE may be few animals that get such a mixed press as the humble bat.

In the space of a generation they have moved from being seen as a pest to be exterminated to becoming one of the nation's most protected creatures.

What's more, perhaps like no other creature, they continue to hold the public's imagination – courtesy of the imagery used in superhero Batman movies and comics and Bram Stoker's classic bloodthirsty creation Dracula.

But today they face a struggle that even Gotham's crime-fighter or the famous Transylvanian count might struggle to combat – declining numbers caused, say experts, by the county's relentless house-building.

For members of the Kent Bat Group, as the days get longer and the nights warmer, so they find themselves at the busiest time of the season.

Tasked with responsibility for protecting the precious bats left in our county, the group does the lion's share of its work over the late spring and summer.

While the bats are awake, feeding and breeding, the Kent Bat Group is there to make sure they are safe.

Bats are some of the most protected creatures in the country, with legislation meaning it is an offence for anyone to intentionally kill, injure or even handle a bat – whether alive or dead.

It is also against the law to disturb a roosting bat, to sell or offer a bat for sale and to damage or obstruct access to any place used by bats as shelter – whether they are present at the time or not.

When it comes to bats, the law is firmly on their side.

Established in 1983, two years after bats were given legal protection, the volunteers of the Kent Bat Group have made it their mission to do all they can for their flying friends.

One of the counties facing the most pressure to build houses for our expanding population, Kent is also one of the counties where bat numbers have declined most over the past few decades. The two things, says Shirley Thompson of Kent Bat Group, are clearly linked.

"Loss of habitat is the biggest threat facing bats these days," she says.

"They need a lot of food, so they need a massive number of insects. Therefore, wherever there is development and new roads you're losing the trees and plants that feed the insects.

"Also, they need lots of different places to roost. In the winter they want a cold place to hibernate and in the summer they want warm places to have their babies.

"They're getting fewer and fewer options."

Mrs Thompson has been involved with the group since it was formed and is now one of the county's leading authorities on bats.

"I've always been interested in natural history and way back in 1981 bats were first protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act," she says. "This was an overnight switch from them being seen as pests to being one of the most heavily protected mammals.

"It was quite a difficult time, because how do you get this sudden switch over to the public? And to the pest-control officers who had been killing them. It was a massive change.

"There was a national drive to recruit volunteers and I went to a talk encouraging people to set up bat groups and to get people licensed in order to give advice to people about bats in their area.

"That was 1983 and I asked my husband if we should leave our names and contact details. He wasn't keen to get involved but, of course, 30 years later, here we are."

The kind of advice Mrs Thompson regularly gives is what to do if you find bats in your loft.

With so many strict laws about what you can and can't do with them, it's always safest to get an expert opinion.

Most enquiries go straight to the Bat Conservation Trust in London, which holds a list of contacts for all local groups and can pass callers on to someone in their area.

Mrs Thompson explains: "I had a call from someone this week who was having solar panels put in and all of a sudden the contractors had a couple of bats flying around the loft and fortunately they realised that what they had to do was to stop work and get in touch.

"Thirty years after the law changed, there are still some builders who don't understand what they should do, but most know these days."

The Kent Bat Group has more than 200 members, but not all of them are active.

Of these about 20 are licensed members who are trained to work on behalf of Natural England – the public body responsible for protecting England's environment. Others take part in bat-spotting walks and surveys, while some just receive the newsletter and take an interest.

"Every member is important because we're trying to get the message out all the time. That for me is still the most important thing that we do – we raise awareness about bats across the board."

With bats, though, nothing is simple. Fourteen of Britain's resident 18 bat species have been recorded in Kent, but that is not quite as cut and dry as it seems. Some have been visitors from other areas and some have only been spotted once or twice.

To complicate the issue, the number of species seems to change quite regularly.

When the group started out, a pipistrelle bat was just a pipistrelle bat, but in recent years that species has been split into two by scientists.

There's now a soprano pipistrelle as well. The only way to tell them apart is to listen to their high-frequency calls with a bat-detector.

There is also a survey going on at the moment to establish how many Nathusius's pipistrelle bats, previously thought to only live in mainland Europe, we have in the country.

In Kent, as elsewhere, the pipistrelle is our most abundant species by far. They can usually be seen hunting for insects in gardens and along hedgerows just after sunset, flying with rapid twists and turns.

In summer, pipistrelles sometimes roost behind hanging tiles or barge boards on the outside of houses.

The brown long-eared bat is widespread in Kent but seen less often than the pipistrelles. It usually lives in or near woodland and hunts near trees and hedgerows, sometimes flying slowly or hovering to take insects from leaves or grass. These bats prefer to roost in old houses with high timbered lofts, emerging after dark.

Bechstein's bat, one of the UK's rarest mammals, was first found in Kent, hibernating, in 2001. A lactating female was recorded in 2010, proving this species is breeding somewhere in the county.

But finding out where is next to impossible. You can hardly catch a glimpse a fast-flying bat, let alone track it.

"It's true – they're really difficult to study," says Mrs Thompson.

"Which is one of the things that make them so interesting. The Bat Conservation Trust has been running a monitoring scheme for several years now. Local bat groups take part in that and for different species we have different ways of checking them – because they all behave so differently.

"Pipistrelles, for instance, we actually count as they emerge from their maternity roosts in the summer. And we know we don't get them all, but we count on two dates in June at the same roosts, and that gives us a good idea.

"After a few years of monitoring them, you can find a trend and it does seem some species

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> **"They need a lot of food so they need a massive number of insects, wherever there is development and new roads you're losing the trees and plants feeding the insects"**
>
> **Shirley Thompson,** Kent Bat Group

Picture: HUGHCLARK/WWW.BATS.ORG.UK

COLONY: The county's bat population is under threat as its habitats are destroyed by builders

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are stabilising. But this is a national figure and I know darn well that the South East is not doing as well as some other areas."

The most important hibernation site known in Kent are the caves at Hosey Common near Westerham, where five species of bat regularly hibernate over the winter.

Man-made caves that were part of an old mine, the site is managed as a bat reserve by the Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent Bat Group. All four entrances have been grilled to reduce disturbance to hibernating bats.

"Way back in the 1960s, batty people were checking them out there," says Mrs Thompson.

"It's probably our biggest hibernation site in the county. This is now included in the national monitoring programme, but the mines are only checked three times a year, over the winter, because we don't want to disturb them.

"We're very short of hibernation caves in this county because we don't have many natural caves.

"In Kent, the bats have to make do with places like these disused mines or railway tunnels."

But this year the surveys have revealed smaller numbers of bats hibernating in the Westerham mines and Mrs Thompson puts that down to the warmer winter.

"It's true of all hibernation sites this year, actually. We don't know if they've found somewhere else to hibernate, somewhere that's easier for them to pop out and feed occasionally. We just don't know with bats.

"My feeling is it's because it was so warm, maybe they didn't need to."

Picture: HUGHCLARK/WWW.BATS.ORG.UK

MISUNDERSTOOD? Nathusius's pipistrelle mum and twins. Bats have had a bad press but some species are among the country's rarest mammals

For a creature long vilified by horror movies, our native bats are surprisingly sensitive creatures and their numbers reflect the tiniest changes in habitat and climate change.

Once misunderstood and persecuted, there are now plenty of groups to ensure the little animals don't vanish.

Joe Nunez-Mino, of the Bat Conservation Trust, says: "Bats play a vital role in our environment as highly effective insect-hunters. Despite this, bat populations have suffered severe declines during the last century, mainly due to habitat destruction.

"The Bat Conservation Trust works alongside local bat groups to secure a future for bats in our ever-changing world by tackling the threats to bats, from persecution to loss of roosts and changing land use.

"The latest results from our nationwide monitoring efforts show that five species are showing improvement and five have stable populations – we currently know very little about the other species that breed in the UK. We will continue to work closely with local bat groups such as Kent Bat Group to protect bats for present and future generations."

BATS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

In summer:
Female bats gather in maternity colonies in early summer. After giving birth in June or early July, they suckle their single young for several weeks. At this time some may roost in houses, but they do not build nests or cause any damage. They normally leave in late summer, when the young can fly and hunt for food.

In winter:
All British bats eat insects. As these are scarce in winter, bats seek somewhere cool and undisturbed to hibernate. In Kent they have been found using places like chalk caves or deneholes, ice houses and disused buildings. Although small numbers hang free, they usually squeeze into cracks and crevices. Kent Bat Group has been involved in protection and improvement of a number of such sites.

To the bat box!
Simple to construct yourself with the plans at www.kentbatgroup.org.uk, it is low-maintenance and self-cleaning and encourages bats to roost near your home.

Fit it with brackets or wires as high as possible either in a tree in your garden or on a high wall.

It needs to be in sheltered spot, out of direct wind, and exposed to the sun for part of the day.

A clear line of flight to and from the box is also important.

If you get bats in your bat box, or if you see them in your garden, Kent Bat Group would like to know as part of its survey. Email records@kentbatgroup.org.uk with your details and as much about the bats you've seen as possible (how many, where and if you don't know the species just describe them).

If you find a bat...
If you need advice about bats or if you find one that needs help, call the Bat Conservation Trust hotline on 0845 1300228 or 0207 7356663.

Visit www.bats.org.uk and www.kentbatgroup.org.uk

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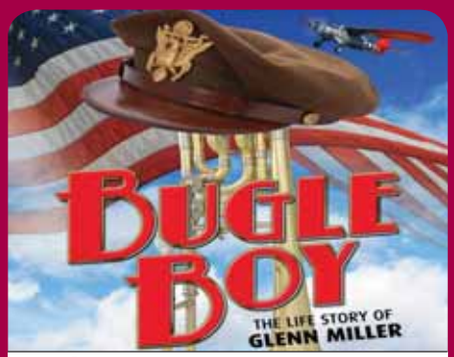

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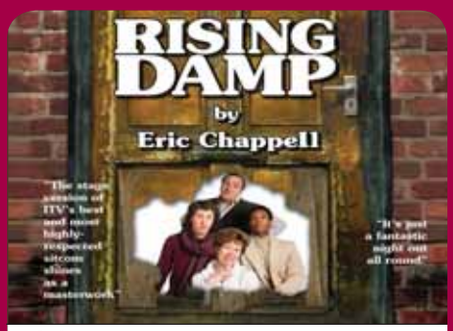

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The European Union: Is now the time for us to withdraw?

As voters prepare to head to the polls on Thursday, the big question remains whether the UK should remain in or out of the European Union. **Sarah Linney** gets those on both sides of the fence to state their case...

NO – says Petros Fassoulas, chairman of the European Movement – an independent all-party group which wants more powers for the EU.

Q. Why do you believe Britain should stay in the EU?

First, because of the trade advantages that the EU offers.

Fifty per cent of our foreign direct investment comes from EU countries, and 40 per cent of our exports go there. Those exports generate about four million jobs in the UK. The economic benefits are enormous.

Being part of the biggest market in the world gives us much more influence – outside the EU we wouldn't be able to trade so much.

The US has said that as part of the EU Britain is a much more valuable partner and ally; and developing economies also have more reason to engage with us if we are part of the EU.

European Elections
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014

But also, the values the EU represents – human rights, free trade, respect for the rule of law – those are all things Britain stands for and has fought for.

Q. Bit expensive, though, isn't it?

The UK paid £8.9 billion into the EU budget in 2010/11 but it doesn't reflect what we get out in terms of trade. The EU gives us opportunities to negotiate trade deals with the rest of the world. We have negotiated very favourable terms in deals with South Korea, Singapore and Canada because we are part of the EU, and we are now negotiating the mother of all trade deals with the USA.

Outside the EU the US would be less inclined to trade and sign a deal with us – why would they? Our companies get a better deal as part of the EU, and it costs us about one per cent of our GDP (gross domestic product), compared with defence expenditure which is about 40 per cent.

Q. Doesn't being in the EU involve a loss of sovereignty, because some of our laws are now made in Brussels?

Big decisions like healthcare, defence, education and welfare are still within the domain of the member states.

We haven't given up the right to govern ourselves, but we have identified some areas where doing things together is better, such as climate change and free trade. And it might be another layer of governance but it is not undemocratic – we are the ones who vote for the MEPs.

Q. Isn't there a risk of losing sovereignty in the future?

I haven't seen any plans to make decisions on the areas we just mentioned at a European level. And all the main parties have committed themselves to consulting the people over a serious transfer of sovereignty.

Q. Let's talk about immigration. Britain no longer has control of its own borders and a lot of people

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believe the country is attracting too many people for its size?

Of course you have free movement of people within the EU, which has allowed 2.2 million British people to go and live across the EU.

They study there, retire there, work there, use healthcare there. But that doesn't mean anyone can just walk in. People can live in another member state only if they wish to work and contribute. If someone is chronically unemployed, the member state has the right to ask them to leave.

But those people who do come in contribute about £25bn per year, according to research by University College London. They pay much more in taxes than they take out in social and welfare payments. The research showed for every £1 a British person contributes to the economy, they take out £1.20; for every £1 a European contributes, they only get 80p back. And that doesn't cover the businesses they start and the people they employ.

People come to Britain because there is a shortage of skills. We don't produce enough nurses – the NHS would collapse if we weren't able to import nurses from the EU easily. The same applies to social care; the hospitality industry; the financial services industry; engineering and IT. We import those people, and without them we wouldn't be as successful.

Q. We could withdraw from the European Union and negotiate a free trade agreement with Europe, though, couldn't we?

We would neither have our cake nor eat it if we did that. Norway contributes more to the EU budget than we do, for the privilege of having access to the common market. But whereas we have a place around the table, they haven't the ability to influence the decisions that govern it. Switzerland also has to compromise significantly. And compromising the national interest is what I call abandoning sovereignty.

One point I always want to make is – what's the alternative? People promise that out of the EU things will be better, but they don't have any substantial proof to back their claims.

A lot of it is emotion. If anyone argues in favour of leaving the EU, he or she should be able to tell you with absolute certainty what it's going to look like, down to the last pound.

NO: Petros Fassoulas, chairman of the European Movement

YES

says Nigel Farage, leader of the UK Independence Party (Ukip).

Q. Why do you believe Britain should leave the EU?

We should govern our own country and we should live in a democracy. We should be responsible for the big decisions that we make, and we can't do those things as an EU member.

Nearly all the big decisions are made elsewhere – we can't even decide whether the takeover of Astra Zeneca is a good idea.

Membership of the EU costs us £55m a day. We have ended up with more expensive electricity bills and more expensive food bills.

Without excess EU regulations, small businesses would be able to create more wealth. A study by Ernst and Young of investors in America and Japan found that in both countries, a significant majority said that if Britain lost some of the excesses and costs of EU regulation they would be more likely to invest.

EU regulations have already led to one-in-four of our hedge funds in London leaving and going to Switzerland or Singapore.

I believe withdrawing from the EU would lead to a tremendous rebirth in our national self-confidence and pride and in what we believe as a nation.

Q. Wouldn't it harm trade if we withdrew from the largest single market in the world?

Trade is trade. We don't need to be a member of a political union to trade. The other countries in the European Union sell us more than we sell them.

We are the eurozone's biggest export market in the world. They desperately need access to the British market. Any thought of tariffs being put on is remarkable. If there were tariffs on French wine and Champagne, there would be riots in Paris.

Norway exports 75 per cent of its overseas goods to the EU. China is now selling quite a lot of stuff to us and the rest of Europe without being part of the EU. Switzerland is not a member of the EU, and the Swiss have more free trade agreements around the world (including one with the EU) than we do.

YES: says Nigel Farage, leader of the UK Independence Party (Ukip)

I think the EU destroys jobs and doesn't create a single trade benefit.

As a member of the EU, we are forbidden from making our own trade deals with other parts of the world. Let's open up and embrace the Commonwealth.

Q. Would our economy suffer if we left the EU?

The companies which make this claim are giant multinationals who are all in this together and who set the rules to suit them.

An expensive regulatory framework suits them because it stops competition springing up in the form of small and medium-sized businesses. It's the holy trinity of big banks, big businesses and big politics.

Twelve years ago we were told that if we wouldn't join the euro, the City of London would decline. The opposite has happened.

Q. What about the loss of our right to free movement within the EU?

We could perfectly happily have reciprocal deals with countries of a similar standing. But being a member of the EU means opening our borders to 485 million people, many of whom come from poor, or former, Communist countries, badly affecting millions of ordinary working families.

Yes, nurses from those countries can come to work here, but what about all the patients? Health tourism is absolutely massive. And yes, it means British citizens can get healthcare abroad, but would you want free healthcare in Poland or Romania?

If we wanted skilled migration we wouldn't take it from across the EU, we would take it from across the world.

Immigration is a big benefit to the rich and to big companies, but it leads to big unemployment and considerable anger in our communities. Youth unemployment in the UK has doubled since 2004; there is a chronic lack of primary school places and increased waiting times in A&E. We have an increasingly crowded and, according to this year's British Social Attitudes Survey, an increasingly divided Britain.

Q. Doesn't the EU bring in a lot of laws which benefit Britain?

Whether we get good laws or bad laws, the point is that we can't change any of them. It's a pretty undemocratic system.

The real authority rests with the European Commission. Regulations and directives have to go through the Parliament, but we can't defend our interests from a minority position.

Since 1966, there have been 55 occasions on which a British government has opposed a piece of EU law at

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the Council of Ministers. We have lost on 55 occasions. That's not influence.

Unlike at national elections, you can't change or repeal existing laws through EU elections. Once something is EU law, the Parliament can't remove it.

YES: says Robert Oulds, director of the Bruges Group

YES says Robert Oulds, director of the Bruges Group, an independent all-party think-tank promoting a less centralised Europe.

Q. Why do you believe we should leave the EU?

It is a drain on our economy and costs the British taxpayer an enormous amount of money each year. That money could be spent supporting the British economy. From the regulations on businesses to the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy, it's a burden we can't afford.

Q. Wouldn't trade suffer if we withdrew from the EU?

Why would Germany stop selling us cars, and France stop selling us wine and cheese?

BMW owns the Mini, which is produced in the UK and exported to Germany. That won't stop – and the jobs linked to EU exports won't stop.

China and the US export more to the European single market than the UK does, and Mexico and South Korea have free trade agreements with the EU.

But the only two countries in Europe that have managed to sign a free trade agreement with China are Iceland and Switzerland, who are not in the EU.

Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein achieved a free trade agreement with South Korea six years before the EU did, and their free trade negotiations with India are quite advanced, whereas the ones between the EU and India are stalled. And it's very important we have a free trade agreement with India as it is a strong, rapidly-growing market.

Britain would like more trade around the world, particularly in services – the City of London is a key area of the services market – but the EU will not give many countries access to its agricultural goods and services, and we have to accept what the EU negotiates on our behalf.

It would also help British trade to be able to avoid EU regulations.

Red tape for a businessman damages growth and competitiveness, which is why we see EU economies stagnating and other countries growing a lot faster.

All the regulations that come from the EU each year create a massive administration burden for business.

Norway isn't part of the EU but it is part of the European Economic Area, which gives it access to the EU single market.

It has to accept some EU rules, but it has the right to opt out of or rewrite EU law, which as an EU member you can't do.

Norway does have a lot of influence over the EU – it has input into committees which discuss policies, and the right to be involved in working groups where the development of rules is affecting the single market, and has been described by the OECD as a leader of the EU's environmental policy.

Q. Why doesn't the EU want to open up the agricultural market?

The Common Agricultural Policy was designed to support small EU farmers, and there are very stringent tariffs on exports from outside the EU, which protects EU farmers.

But they can charge a higher price because people from abroad can't sell, so the CAP inflates prices within the EU – that's why food prices across the EU are so much higher than they would be otherwise, according to Oxfam and the OECD.

And actually, 80 per cent of the payments go to the 20 per cent of farmers who are wealthiest.

So big businesses are benefiting, but they will always lobby to keep the CAP because they are earning a lot of money and benefiting from state subsidies.

The EU doesn't put the best interests of its citizens first, it puts first those who have money and power.

Q. But a lot of businesspeople are in favour of the EU...

Large multinational businesses appreciate the EU because that's where the power is – and the EU is very open to lobbying.

It's in the interests of big business to have a highly-regulated environment as it keeps small businesses down.

They can afford the cost of lawyers to deal with regulations that act as a barrier to smaller businesses, who can't afford the time or the staff needed to read and impose the regulations.

NO: says Alisdair McIntosh, director of Business for New Europe

In Britain, we value the small company – that's where most people in the private sector are employed.

Q. Do you believe the EU to be undemocratic?

Absolutely. Legislation should come from the people who are elected, but the sole route of legislation within the EU is from the European Commission, who are not elected.

The parliament can't initiate legislation. It isn't a government; the government is the Commission.

And there is so much legislation each year, the parliament often doesn't have time to do more than rubber stamp it.

There's also a culture of secrecy. The Council of Ministers and the Commission meet in secret – imagine if we weren't allowed to know what MPs said in Parliament!

According to the House of Commons, about 50 per cent of our new laws come from the EU. The EU is a political project.

It's about creating a system of governance and a single European identity, with ever closer union between the memberstates, and Britain doesn't have much power.

NO says Alisdair McIntosh, director of Business for New Europe, an independent coalition of business leaders with a pro-Europe agenda but seeking reform.

Q. Why do you believe we should stay in the EU?

The Confederation for British Industry has estimated that our membership of the EU is worth £8 billion a year.

The Centre for Economics and Business Research estimates that 4.2 million UK jobs are directly linked to our membership of the EU and our participation in the single market.

Even small businesses find themselves linked to the European supply chain, as quite often companies are part of a supply chain through their customers or suppliers even if they don't trade directly with the EU.

The EU is also the power negotiating big trade deals that get UK firms into markets in other countries.

Being in the European Union also means benefits for consumers: more products, more services on offer, lower prices, as well as certain standards of safety, consumer protection and environmental protection.

Finally, with situations like Ukraine, our participation in the EU gives us a louder voice in

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world political and diplomatic circles.

The UK could survive outside the EU. The question is, would we thrive?

Q. What if we just had a free trade agreement with the EU, like Norway?

That is conceivable, but the question is what the price and the terms would be. If we left the EU and went back asking for a free trade agreement, would that put us in a particularly strong negotiating position? Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg said the European Economic Area was not a good example for the UK.

And the Norwegian Conservative Party spokesman on European affairs, Nikolai Astrup, said: "If you want to run the EU, stay in the EU; if you want to be run by the EU, feel free to join us in the EEA."

Q. Isn't it actually only big businesses that love the European Union, because its plethora of regulations strangles small businesses who might compete with them?

Bigger businesses are more able, on balance, to cope with regulations than small businesses, but as a general principle they don't like regulation.

But small businesses, like big businesses, have a lot to gain. If the UK were to leave the EU tomorrow, there would still be regulation.

No UK government would decide that we didn't need product safety regulations anymore. The idea that everything comes from Brussels is false. Small and medium sized businesses have exemptions from large swathes of EU regulation anyway, micro-businesses even more.

I have personally spoken to hundreds of business leaders and to all who've said regulation is a problem, I have said can you give me some hard and fast examples of regulations from Brussels that hold back your business? Only the minority have been able to.

When you start to unpick it all, it's hard to put your finger on real barriers that affect all sectors. A regulation is also there for a purpose, for example to ensure that products are safe, to stop people cheating us, to stop companies selling stuff that's going to damage the environment, to protect people in their workplace.

Q. Isn't the EU terribly undemocratic... and isn't it hard for British interests to be properly represented in an undemocratic organisation?

It is true that the institutions are too remote, and we don't understand enough about what they do, but I don't think there's a particularly good argument for saying that they are undemocratic.

The parliament is directly elected by all the member states. The Commission does not make laws, it proposes laws, which are decided by the Council of Ministers (made up of elected government ministers from the different member states) or the parliament.

We undermine our position in the EU if we are thinking about leaving. People think: should we invest too much time in trying to hear their point of view?

HOW TO VOTE IN EURO ELECTIONS:

ELECTIONS for the European Parliament take place this Thursday, May 22.

Voting will take place at your local polling station between 7am and 10pm. If you are 18 or over and have registered to vote, you will have received a polling card which will tell you where to go.

But don't worry if you've lost that card. Just turn up with some ID at the polling station.

At the polling station you will receive a ballot paper with a list of parties and independent candidates on it. You are voting for a party – not the individual.

The European Parliament is elected through a system of proportional representation.

Instead of the first past the post system at Westminster elections, when the candidate who receives the most votes in each constituency wins, in European elections there are several MEPs for each constituency, and seats are allocated according to the proportion of the vote each party gets.

Kent is part of the south east England constituency, which has ten MEPs – so any party which gets more than ten per cent of the vote will win at least one seat.

Parties will usually put forward several candidates, who will be listed on the ballot paper in the party's preferred order. If the party wins one seat, the top candidate will be elected; if it wins two seats, the top two; and so on.

Unfortunately, for those on tenterhooks to know the results, different European countries vote on different days and counting of the votes cannot start until after the last poll closes at 10pm in Italy on Sunday.

The count for the south east region will take place in Southampton and results will be announced late on Sunday night or early on Monday morning.

■ For full results see www.kentnews.co.uk or pick up next weekend's copy of Kent of Sunday.

AND THERE ARE LOCAL ELECTIONS TOO...

IT'S not just the European elections taking place on Thursday.

Around a third of local councillors at Maidstone Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council will be fighting it out to be elected too.

Those attending polling booths in those areas will get an additional voting form to use to select their local councillor.

The results of those elections should be made public on Friday.

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HAVE YOUR SAY: Your vote will decide which MEPs sit in the parliament representing the south east region

THE CANDIDATES:

List of candidates for the five main parties:

Candidates are listed in order – so for every ten per cent of the vote in the south east the Conservatives get, for example, will see their top candidate be elected, and then the second one down and so on.

Conservative Party

Dan Hannan
Nirj Deva
Richard Ashworth
Marta Andreasen
Richard Robinson
Graham Knight
Julie Marson
George Jeffrey
Rory Love
Adrian Pepper

Green Party

Keith Taylor
Alexandra Phillips
Derek Wall
Jason Kitcat
Miriam Kennet
Beverley Golden
Jonathan Essex
Jonathan Kent
Stuart Jeffery
Ray Cunningham

Labour Party

Anneliese Dodds
John Howarth
Emily Westley
James Swindlehurst
Farah Nazeer
James Watkins
Maggie Hughes
Christopher Clark
Karen Landles
Tracey Hill

Liberal Democrats

Catherine Bearder
Antony James Hook
Dinti Batstone
Giles Goodall
Ian Bearder
Allison Moss
Steven Sollitt
Bruce Tennent
John Vincent
Alan Bullion

UK Independence Party

Nigel Farage
Janice Atkinson
Diane James
Ray Finch
Donna Edmunds
Patricia Culligan
Nigel Jones
Alan Stevens
Simon Strutt
Barry Cooper

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drive through europe

Party leaders write for KoS in

Conservatives

By David Cameron, Prime Minister and party leader

THE people of Kent will go to the polls next week to vote in the European elections. They have a big choice before them. And the Conservative message is simple; while other parties talk, we are the ones who deliver in Europe.

With the other parties you have two extremes; Labour and the Liberal Democrats on one side, who think there's nothing wrong with Europe; and Ukip on the other side, who think there's nothing right with it.

There is only one party with a credible, practical plan in Europe – one that gets the best possible deal for the people of Britain. That's the Conservative Party.

And these are the key areas we are renegotiating on; keeping our border controls; cracking down on benefit tourism; securing more trade; getting more control over justice and home affairs; and getting Britain out of "ever closer union".

We are fighting to create a European Union that works for the people of Kent – that makes it easier for businesses to sell their goods on the continent, that creates jobs and opportunities for young people in the area, and that ensures people can't just come to the UK to live off our welfare system. And once we've negotiated, whatever the outcome, you will have your final say on our future in Europe, with that in-out referendum in 2017.

Remember: Labour and the Lib Dems won't give you a say. Ukip can't give you a say. Only the Conservatives will give you that choice.

If you want proof that we will deliver, just look at our record. The bailouts Labour signed us up to – I pulled us out of them. The EU Treaty that wasn't in our interests – I refused to sign it. And the EU budget, which everyone said we wouldn't be able to reduce – I cut it, saving British taxpayers £8.15 billion.

So the choice for Kent's voters is clear. We are the only party that has delivered in Europe, the only party

European Elections

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014

As the county heads to the polls, and the parties make a final bid to woo you, we gave some of the most important political figures the chance to reach out to you in a bid to secure your vote. Writing for KoS are the likes of party leaders Ed Miliband, Nick Clegg and the Prime Minister David Cameron

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Children and young people deserve to grow up in a caring, stable environment and since 1997, Chrysalis Care has worked across all London Boroughs, The South East and Bedfordshire, committed to ensuring a nurturing family environment where children and young people can thrive and reach their full potential. We are always interested in hearing from people who can offer consistency and who are willing and able to go the extra mile to reassure a child or young person and provide the stability they need. Chrysalis Care cares for children and young people aged 0-18 years, including children with disabilities and young people on remand and also parents and their children, in certain situations. We know that whatever the reason a child comes into care, they need the very best care, from outstanding foster carers. If you have space in your home and in your life for a vulnerable child and have a sense of fun and vibrancy, Chrysalis Care will train and support you to help transform children's lives.

We are waiting to hear from you and to answer your queries. Please call **0208 2982800**, email **info@chrysaliscare.org** and visit **chrysaliscarefostering.org**

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And that's why you need to vote Conservative on May 22.

Liberal Democrats

By Nick Clegg, leader and deputy prime minister

IN less than a week the European elections will be upon us and you will be faced with a choice; do you want to remain in the EU or should we leave? The Liberal Democrats are the party of in.

In because we are fighting for a stronger economy and a fairer society. In because we are fighting for the millions of British jobs linked to our trade with our European neighbours. And in because being in Europe gives us more strength when negotiating global trade deals.

I believe leaving the EU would be disastrous for our economy, our businesses, our jobs and our society too.

Your Liberal Democrat MEP, Catherine Bearder, has been working hard to represent both the south east and Britain in the European Parliament while candidate Antony Hook has been out campaigning with the economy, environment and fighting crime at the top of his priorities.

Catherine has been working hard to combat and raise awareness about human trafficking as in the case of Osezua Osolase, from Gravesend, who was jailed for five counts of trafficking.

Crimes like these don't just stop at borders and neither do the criminals. The Liberal Democrats are fighting to protect British citizens by ensuring that law enforcement and civil liberties do not stop at borders either. Our police forces need to be able to work with other forces across the continent to combat criminal gangs and ensure that British people are protected.

Climate change is something else that doesn't stop at borders. The Lib Dems are fighting to create an ambitious green agenda and to protect our environment and create green jobs.

It's crucial we work with other European countries to cut carbon and reduce pollution.

In Maidstone, Catherine has been working with Jasper Gerard, Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate for Maidstone, to ensure the European Parliament investigates chronic pollution in the area, with some "choke spots" displaying air quality below EU standards.

Jobs, crime prevention and the environment are just some of the reasons why we should remain in the EU. The Conservatives, having openly flirted with exit, are putting millions of British jobs at risk, and Labour don't have the courage of their convictions on this; they can't be trusted with the economy at home or abroad.

If you agree that Britain is better off engaged with our neighbours and a leader on the world stage; now is the time to make yourself heard: Vote 'in' on May 22, vote for your Liberal Democrat MEP Catherine Bearder and candidate Antony Hook, who have been working to represent your rights and will continue to do so.

Green Party

By Keith Taylor, MEP for the south east

ON May 22 the voters of Kent have a stark choice in the European elections. On the one hand you've got four political parties, the Lib Dems, Labour, Tories and Ukip, occupying a very narrow part

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Photography depicts Park Crescent at Kingsbrook Park.

An Independence from Europe

FORMED by former Ukip MEP Mike Nattrass after he was deselected by the party, An Independence from Europe supports withdrawal from the European Union but wants to maintain good trade relations with Europe as well as improving links with the Commonwealth.

The party wants to stop the free movement of migrants from the European Union countries into Britain and establish an immigration policy similar to that of Australia.

It is also opposed to the HS2 rail scheme and any privatisation of the NHS.

BNP

"WE will put British people first in their own country. We demand British jobs go to British workers; we say 'no' to an EU superstate and 'yes' to keeping Britain free," claims the British National Party's website.

The BNP would stop all immigration except for "exceptional cases", refuse benefits to non British citizens and even offer people who have foreign ancestry money to leave.

Other policies include stopping foreign aid and giving the money to pensioners instead.

Christian People's Alliance

UNSURPRISINGLY given its name, it believes that Britain should be governed according to Christian principles.

The party is committed to the sanctity of human life, marriage, and the pursuit of peace, and also wants to restore Sunday as a day of rest.

The Alliance wants Britain to have a referendum on leaving the EU, but supports withdrawal. The party also opposes same sex marriage, abortion and euthanasia.

English Democrats

"OUR objective is simple: to put the English first and fight for an all English Parliament to be the bedrock of England!" states the English Democrats' website.

The party wants to reduce immigration, moving to a points system like Canada's, withdraw from the EU and make St George's Day a national holiday.

Liberty Great Britain

PROMISES to tackle "the most important issues of our time", which it believes are "mass immigration from the Third World, the steady rise of fundamentalist Islam and the hijacking of traditional British culture and institutions by well organised left wing 'progressives'."

It believes that Christian ideas should underpin Britain's moral framework and its policies include leaving the European Union, stopping immigration for five years, "drastically reducing crime" and "promoting British values".

The Peace Party

THE Peace Party says it "seeks to promote a society that is compassionate and respectful, and that values cooperation over competition".

The party is opposed to all wars, wants to reduce the price of public transport and believes there is "much to be said for the idea of land as a common resource".

It also supports the introduction of proportional representation at general elections.

It also believes that "a strong case can be made for the legalisation of the sale and use of drugs".

The Roman Party

THE Roman Party is putting out just one candidate in the UK this year – a French bus driver called Jean Louis Pascual.

He stood before in 2009 and polled 5,450 votes.

Mr Pascual, from Reading, says the basis of his policy is "when in Rome do as the Romans do".

For clarification, he is "against injustice" and believes teenage mothers should go back to school to complete their education.

The Socialist Party of Great Britain

THE Socialist Party of Great Britain believes in "the establishment of a system of society based upon the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of the whole community."

The organisation, which has no leader, says it is the only British party which is "dedicated to socialism as an immediate goal".

YOURvoice

YOURVOICE is the only party without an agenda.

Instead, its aim is to encourage the public to express their opinions through the internet and social media, and its MEPs will vote according to what they hear.

"YOURvoice delivers an unbiased approach to politics, listening to the people," its website says.

Upcoming legislation will be listed on the party's website each month and people will be able to discuss the issues online before voting on whether they support or oppose the legislation.

The MEPs will then vote in Parliament accordingly.

Harmony Party

THE Harmony Party doesn't seem to even have a website but describes itself as "zero immigration, anti-EU, pro-jobs".

It is putting up just five candidates in the entire country – two of whom will be fighting for a seat to represent the south east.

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of the political spectrum – offering you mildly different versions of the same kind of politics.

On the other hand you've got a chance to re-elect me, your Green Party MEP, to continue to stand up for your interests in the European Parliament.

You won't hear Clegg, Miliband, Farage or Cameron take a stand against fracking, or pledge to get rid of nuclear weapons. You won't see them sticking up for people who are struggling to get by as benefits are cut, or for the thousands of young people across the south east of England who are struggling to find work that pays a decent wage. And you'll find all of them repeating tired old myths around immigration.

The Green Party is different. We want to build an economy that works for the common good, not for private profit. We want clean energy from renewables, not dirty fossil fuels that are causing climate change. We want Europe to work for everyone, not just those at the top.

That's why I've used my time as your MEP to win a cap on bonuses for millionaire bankers, and to campaign against cuts to the services that millions of people rely on. It's why I've been defending our countryside from fracking and pushing for affordable publicly-owned railways.

Greens are also at the forefront of protecting animals across the continent, whether it be fighting against live exports in Kent or pushing for a ban on the public funding of bullfighting in Spain.

In Europe, Greens have been at the forefront of pushing for changes to make the EU more accountable to you. But we're under no illusions about the EU. It's not serving people in the way it should.

Greens want to make radical changes to the European Union, to make it more accountable to you, and to end a culture of serving the interests of big business.

Greens are the only ones saying 'yes' to a referendum, and 'yes' to staying in the EU. We need the EU to protect workers from a race to the bottom on wages and rights. We need the EU because problems like air pollution do not respect national borders.

And we need Europe because it gives easy access to a large market for small business in the UK.

On May 22, you have a choice. You can vote for one of the four parties who offer different shades of business as usual. Or you can vote for change.

Ultimately a vote for the Green Party is a vote for an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the top. Isn't it time for real change, not just more of the same?

Labour

By Ed Miliband, leader of the Labour Party

THE record of this Government is simple; hardworking Britain is worse off month after month, year after year.

Since David Cameron entered Downing Street working people in the south east have seen their pay fall on average by over £2,000-a-year. This is a record that no other Government can match.

But these averages and statistics only provide a glimpse of what is really happening to families caught in the cross-hairs of the cost-of-living crisis.

The link between the wealth of our nation and everyday family finances has been broken. This is visible in Kent, with rising demand for the county's foodbanks, a lack of affordable homes and the unfair bedroom tax forcing vulnerable people into rent arrears.

We know this Government can't deliver what is needed to ensure all hard working families in Kent feel the benefits of their efforts. And we know the Liberal Democrats can't be part of the solution because they are part of the problem.

In this election campaign, Labour will show how we will make Britain better off by dealing with the cost-of-living crisis and building an economy that works for all hard-working people. Labour has made ten commitments that show how we will make a difference by making work pay, stopping rip-off prices, and tackling the abuse of migrant labour by banning recruitment agencies that only hire foreign workers.

The priority of Labour's MEP candidates like Anneliese Dodds and John Howarth isn't leaving the European Union, but changing it so it works to raise living standards for hardworking families in Britain and makes a real difference to your pocket and to your county.

Elections are a moment when people have the chance to help to change their own community and our country. We have set out concrete steps for how we can make that change happen – by voting for Labour in Kent on May 22 you can help us make hardworking Britain better off.

Ukip

By Janice Atkinson, Ukip's second MEP candidate for south east

SO why should you vote Ukip this Thursday?

Because the old parties of the political elite have let you down.

They all went to the same schools, same universities, have never worked in the real world in real jobs and then went straight into safe Parliamentary seats.

They voted for the Climate Change Act that put £500 per annum on every family's heating bill.

They all believe in useless windfarms and peddle the lie of green jobs.

The Ramsgate offshore wind farm has created just 21 permanent jobs; were made in Denmark, owned by Sweden and every job is subsidised by £3m per year. We believe in renewables but not at the taxpayers' expense.

They all believe in uncontrolled immigration because they all want to stay in the European Union where the membership rules say we have to open our borders to cheap Eastern European labour which drives down wages and unemployment up.

The old parties all signed away our sovereignty under various treaties, not giving the British public a say on whether we wanted a United States of Europe.

That's what the three old main parties did. So, what will Ukip do for you?

Our Ukip MEPs will vote against all damaging legislation; 75 per cent of our laws are made in the EU.

We believe in the sovereignty of Parliament, not unelected bureaucrats.

We will use our voice to tell you of the excesses and lack of democracy in the EU. The UK has only 8.4 per cent of votes in the EU and little influence.

We want to trade with the world, the Commonwealth of 2.2bn people and we will still trade with Europe, after all why wouldn't they want to sell us their cars, wine and goods?

Yet, at the moment we have a £60bn trade deficit and have had one ever since we joined the EEC. It makes no economic sense. Various economic reports suggest we would create jobs if we left the confines of the EU's damaging legislation on Kent businesses.

I will be representing Kent in particular as Ukip doesn't recognise the south east region, which is a European construct. I lived in Kent for 30 years and educated my children here, my heart is here.

My focus for Kent will be regeneration, jobs and the economy, not playing the game of more power to Brussels, bolstering their failed political union which has led to 60 per cent youth unemployment, hunger and anger.

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The childhood home of Anne Boleyn

Dementia sufferers offered a helping hand with new awareness campaign

By Maria Chiorando

m a

AS THE nation comes to grips with an ageing population, more and more of us are being exposed to the agony of dementia.

The degenerative brain disease has the ability to strip sufferers of memories and coherent thought – an irreversible illness that can leave their nearest and dearest devastated, and those affected confused and anxious.

Education is key and next week heralds the start of Dementia Awareness Week.

Many doctors have jumped on board with the initiative, in hope of encouraging people to seek advice if they fear they – or their loved ones – may have the disease.

There are almost 10,000 people in Kent and Medway who have been diagnosed with the illness, but it is thought the actual number of people who have the disease is closer to 22,000, with many unaware of the symptoms or fearful of confirmation.

Dr Caroline Ruaux, one of the eight clinical leads for dementia in Kent and Medway, said: "This illness is a life-changing, progressive condition and an early diagnosis is a key part of unlocking access to help and putting plans in place for the future.

"That's important, not just for the sake of the person with the condition, but for their family and friends, too.

"We want to remind people it isn't just a symptom of old age; it's a condition people need support with. There are many dementia organisations and networks across the county, but it is much easier to access assistance once a person has been diagnosed.

"Don't bottle your worries up – speak to your GP if you think you or a loved one may be showing signs."

Kent County Council is heavily involved in a project called Dementia Friendly Communities with the NHS.

Its aim is to create support for not only dementia sufferers but their carers. It is hoped it will reduce the dementia stigma, increase awareness and improve the quality of life for people living with the condition by running awareness sessions across Kent that are open to everyone.

One creative project that has been undertaken in conjunction with KCC and the NHS is a book called Dementia Diaries by writer and illustrator Matthew Snyman, who until recently lived in Maidstone.

The book was completed late last year and is based on real-life stories.

Mr Snyman, 28, was approached by the Social Innovations Lab for Kent (Silk) – which addresses social challenges – to put together the book to help educate young people about issues around dementia. It is thought that children, in particular, need to be made aware of conditions that are increasingly impacting on their grandparents and potentially their parents.

Stories were gathered by interviewing families affected by the illness, then the data was passed to the author, who created fictional characters using the information.

The book has subsequently been nominated for an award and is in every school library in Kent.

The plan is to make an active learning resource that would be taught as part of the syllabus, primarily in Kent, and then hopefully across the UK.

Mr Snyman said: "For children of primary-school age, it can be hard to understand what's happening when they see an older family member suffering from the disease.

"If they can have a shared experience, like the book, then can really get to grips with having dementia in their life. I'm immensely proud to have been a part of it."

Graham Gibbens, KCC cabinet member for adult social care and public health, said: "Improving the well-being of people with dementia is a top priority in Kent and we are working with all our partners to change the way people view dementia."

CATCHING THE SIGNS EARLY

DEMENTIA is an umbrella term used to describe a set of symptoms that can include memory loss, difficulties with concentration, problem-solving and communication. Most of the people affected by dementia are over 65, although 2.2 per cent of the population will develop dementia at a younger age. Two-thirds of sufferers are women.

Some of the early signs in noticing dementia include:

- Struggling to remember recent events
- Finding it hard to follow conversations or programmes on TV
- Forgetting the names of friends and family or everyday objects
- Repeating yourself or losing the thread of what you are saying
- Feeling anxious, depressed or angry
- Other people commenting on your forgetfulness
- Feeling confused in a familiar environment
- Struggling to find the right words
- Difficulty with numbers or handling money in shops

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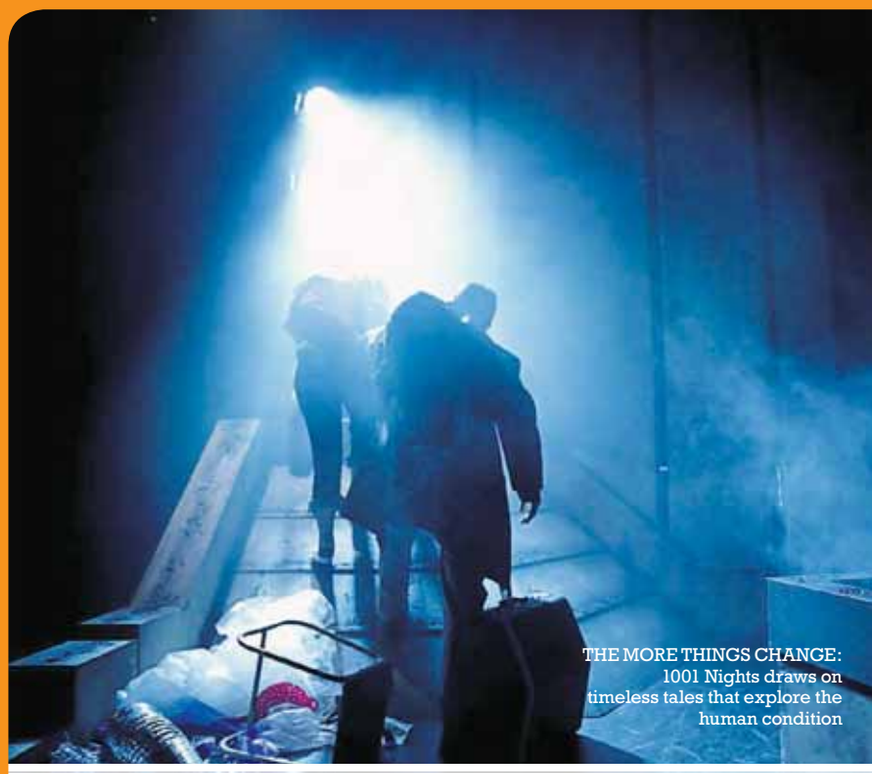

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE: 1001 Nights draws on timeless tales that explore the human condition

Remember the Arabian Nights? They still live...

Artistic director Doug Rintoul tells **David Mairs** how the Transport theatre company is following a rich tradition in adapting a classic piece of folklore

KENT'S proximity to London arguably works against the development of its theatrical enterprise. Why bother with it here when you've got one of the most vibrant arts scenes in the world on your doorstep?

Maybe, maybe not, but the county's geographical location has proved critical to the establishment of Transport, "an internationally-minded arts company" that looks "towards the Channel and beyond".

Its latest production is 1001 Nights and this weekend it wraps up its dates at Canterbury's Gulbenkian before moving on to Quarterhouse in Folkestone, the town that provides its base.

Artistic director Doug Rintoul grew up in Canterbury and his parents live in Folkestone, so his connection with east Kent is strong.

"Transport is a peripatetic company that we moved to Folkestone because we wanted the company to have a particular connection and impact on a community rather than be out in the ether in London.

"We're based at Quarterhouse and do a lot of outreach work focused primarily on Folkestone and east Kent for people who have never been to theatre before."

Rintoul's attachment to Folkestone is clear and he is pleased with the way in which its arts offering has grown.

"There has not been the provision for arts here that there is in Canterbury, for example," he said. "There used to be a traditional theatre and there's a lovely independent cinema still, but Quarterhouse has changed things and we've been a part of building those audiences.

"That's why the Creative Foundation is so brilliant."

Does the historic situation reflect a lack of appreciation of the arts in the town?

"It's hard to say there's a lack of appreciation when there wasn't any provision," said Rintoul.

Transport has its Quarterhouse base, but this is far from an exclusive relationship and there are ties with venues across the country.

"At Transport we are lucky to have these brilliant places to work with. At Ipswich there's the New Wolsley Theatre, with a really great model we can feed off, as well as places like the Hackney Empire.

"We're using all those national connections to feed into. We wouldn't be able to do the work we do without them – we couldn't afford to. We rely on them and I suppose you could say we're leeching off them – there are lots of people involved, such as international co-producers."

1001 Nights is based on The Arabian Nights, the English naming of One Thousand And One Nights, a sprawling collection of folk tales gathered largely on the Silk Road between China and the Middle East.

"The earliest texts were Syrian and there have been many translations, but they were only spoken at the time that they were created," said Rintoul.

"Then there was the crossover between them and the European texts – they were brilliant in that they adapted and changed in differing times and environments. In the Middle East they would think you were crazy if you performed the original versions.

"They are meant to be performed in a contemporary context and explore the human condition and what is going on around us. There's a lot about exile, loneliness, families splitting up – even farting in one story."

Moving swiftly on, the Transport adaption tells the tale of Shahrazad, a Syrian girl adapting to a new life in this country.

"With a play, I always ask how do I want an audience to be different by the end of it," said Rintoul. "Here I want to celebrate how you can play and what you can make with a whole load of rubbish, rather than sit around in front of the TV.

"Shahrazad and her friends are on a roof-top and they create whole worlds with the stuff around them.

"I wanted to talk about the opportunity for kids to meet Islam and for that to be OK and to make sure kids encountered friendships between someone who was British and someone who was not."

Times are changing perhaps faster than ever before, and Transport, it is clear, is not going to be left behind.

■ **1001 Nights is at the Gulbenkian, Canterbury, tonight (Sunday, May 18) at 3pm. Tickets are priced at £8. Phone 01227 769075 or visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk.**

■ **It is then at Quarterhouse, Folkestone, from Thursday to Saturday, May 22-24. Tickets are priced from £5. Phone 01303 858500 or visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk.**

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All-rounder Brian Conley has **Dave Mairs** laughing along ahead of his new show

Life and times of the 'entertainment king' Conley makes for good night out

SOME comics can be hard work to interview, while others make the job of the beleaguered hack just a little more comfortable.

Happily, Brian Conley falls into the latter category.

Eager and keen to roll out a few quips and no little amount of jollity, he gives the immediate impression that audiences for his new tour, The Real Life Of Brian Conley, will be in for a cheery evening, which is, after all, what such events are all about.

To dismiss Conley as a superficial grinning clown, though, would be wrong. He has put himself through the wringer while in the public eye, most notably on I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here in 2012.

He had to quit the show suffering exhaustion and malnutrition, having at one stage broken down in tears, all on the back of a personal decision to stop taking the antidepressants that he had been using for the previous 15 years.

"It had really gone quite smoothly and only went a bit wrong when Helen Flanagan couldn't do so many of the trials," he said.

"We had eight days of not eating – I couldn't keep the stuff down, the chickpeas and rice, and I was heaving as I was eating. In the end I just collapsed and ended up in hospital."

So it hasn't all been one big party, but at the same time his show isn't one long analytical baring of the soul.

"It's a potpourri of entertainment and as much fun as you can have with your clothes on," he said.

"I talk briefly about my illustrious career in comedy and give you a one-man variety show.

"I do it all – there's no one on stage helping me out. I don't disappear after half an hour – you see some entertainers do that, but I couldn't.

"If you've paid to see someone for a full show, then that's what you should get."

> **"No one in the audience has to go and see any of those shows now – I'm saving them about 400 quid!"**

And you get an awful lot rolled into one, apparently.

"There will be songs from West End shows like Oliver!, Hairspray and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

"No one in the audience has to go and see any of those shows now – I'm saving them about 400 quid!"

Conley included Canterbury's Marlowe theatre and the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells in his 25-date itinerary.

"I know the Marlowe," he said when the dates were announced.

"I was very close friends with Dave Lee [the Kent comedian, who died in 2012] and did charity nights there, although this will be the first time I've performed there since the refurbishment.

"I always found it a great venue for comedy."

The tour is notable for the number of smaller venues it includes and Conley is keen to stress their value.

"The smaller theatres are more likely to create a better atmosphere," he said.

"I don't like them too big – at some of these venues with capacities of 20,000 or whatever, you might as well be watching on the telly.

"The other thing with these cracking smaller venues is you have to be put on a good performance every time you turn out.

"In the arenas, you only have to be good once a month."

It might come as surprise to some, but a quick scan through the internet shows Conley was once the "highest-paid male television personality in the UK".

He laughs at the idea – "No, in the world, the world!" – before referring back to the Get Me Out Of Here experience.

"It's horses for courses – Bear Grylls can do the jungle, I can do comedy and singing. I've been doing it professionally for 40 years – I did my first professional job, with an Equity card, when I was 12.

"And I talk about the various things I've done and how it all came about. Basically, people can come along and have a good laugh."

And that king of the entertainment world thing?

"I wouldn't take much notice of it," he said.

"Apparently one site says I'm also a huge Arsenal fan – I don't even follow football. I don't know where they get this stuff."

■ **The Real Life Of Brian Conley is at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Tuesday, May 20, at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £22.50 (booking fees apply). Phone 01892 530613 or visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.**

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DogsTrust

City festival promises a riot of half-term fun

Hands-on activities combine with storytelling and comedy for second Canterbury Children's Festival

FUN AND GAMES: Canterbury Children's Festival runs from May 24-31

THE Marlowe Theatre and The Beaney House Of Art And Knowledge are joining forces to present the second Canterbury Children's Festival.

Taking place at the end of this month, during the half-term break, there will be performances at The Marlowe Studio, interactive craft and storytelling workshops at The Beaney and free activities at both venues.

Events at The Marlowe Studio include a Play-In-A-Day workshop, an adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's I Believe In Unicorns, Misunderstood Monsters, a show about facing your fears, the return of Comedy Club 4 Kids and an hour of very silly comedy with Tiernan Douieb's Everything You've Ever Needed To Know Ever And Some Extra Stuff.

At The Beaney, families can enjoy interactive stories on themes of Dinosaurs And Prehistoric Monsters and Unicorns, Mermaids And Dragons, a chance to make their own monster, a comedy workshop for children and a talk from author Eleanor Hawken on her children's book Sammy Feral's Diaries Of Weird.

The week culminates with Little Monster Costume Workshops and The Big Monster Parade, with prizes for the best-dressed monster.

Families can enjoy free drop-in Roman Monster Activities at the Canterbury Roman Museum and Teddy Bear Story drop-in activities at The Beaney.

At The Marlowe, there will be free storytelling, as well as poetry, drama and dance workshops.

The Marlowe's head of creative projects, Daniel Lipman, said: "It was great last year to see so many families have fun here and at The Beaney.

"We've added lots of events this year and the festival promises to be bigger, better and even more fun."

Canterbury Children's Festival runs from Saturday to Saturday, May 24-31.

For more details and to book tickets, phone The Marlowe box office on 01227 787787 or visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

The festival is sponsored by Lipscomb Volvo.

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‘World’s greatest adventurer’ living dangerously with trip to spa town

Action and adventure is guaranteed on stage with speaker Sir Ranulph Fiennes

SIR Ranulph Fiennes, described as “the world’s official greatest living adventurer”, is coming to Tunbridge Wells.

He is bringing his Living Dangerously tour to the Assembly Hall Theatre in June.

Sir Ranulph’s exploits, escapades and expeditions have taken him in almost every direction around the globe, including the first hovercraft expedition up the Nile (1969); the 52,000-mile odyssey through both poles in the first polar circumnavigation of Earth (1979-82); and the first unsupported crossing of Antarctica (1993) and the first crossing of the Antarctic by foot.

More generally, he has led more than 30 expeditions, climbed to the highest peak on the planet, found the lost Arabian city of Ubar and conquered the first 7x7x7 Challenge.

He completed seven marathons, on seven continents, in seven consecutive days... just three months after a massive heart attack, a three-day coma and a double bypass.

Despite suffering from vertigo and possessing no climbing experience, the former SAS demolitions expert was intent on adding to his endeavours by setting his sights on climbing Everest’s Tibetan side to raise £2 million for the British Heart Foundation’s new MRI scanner

Two years later, in 2007, Sir Ranulph climbed what is arguably the world’s toughest ascent, the north face of the Eiger, raising £1.8m for Marie Curie Cancer Care’s Delivering Choice programme, following the loss of his first wife three years earlier

In 2008, he returned to Everest to climb the Nepalese side and raised a further £2.5m for the same Marie Curie programme, this time coming within just 400 metres of the summit

One year on, Sir Ranulph finally summited Everest, at the age of 64.

Living Dangerously is the story of how he conquered several of the most challenging, and record-breaking, expeditions and adventures on Planet Earth

It is at the Assembly Hall Theatre on Monday, June 9.

To book tickets, phone the box office on 01892 530613 or visit www.speakersfromtheedge.com.

STAR TREKKING: Sir Ranulph has climbed Everest and crossed the Antarctic on foot during his many global travels

ON SONG: Albert Hammond

Hit machine on road with songbook tour

ALBERT Hammond is bringing his Songbook Tour to Folkestone’s Leas Cliff Hall this month.

The brilliant singer-songwriter has been writing hit songs for more than 40 years and there has not been a decade in which he has not written multiple hits songs since he scored his first hit with Little Arrows at the age of 24.

His songs have been responsible for the sale of more than 360 million records worldwide, including more than 30 chart-topping hits.

Many of his most-loved songs, such as The Air That I Breathe and When I Need You, have become hits multiple times with various artists.

Now, after more than 50 years of an outstandingly successful career, he has recorded his first live album.

Albert Hammond’s Songbook Tour is at the Leas Cliff Hall on Tuesday, May 27. Tickets, priced from £21 (booking fees may apply), are available from the box office on 0844 871 3015 or at www.atgtickets.com/folkestone.

KENT LIFE Kent on Sunday FOOD & DRINK AWARDS 2014

kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk

Sponsored by: MASERATI Motorline®

We are delighted to be able to bring you the 2014 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards

YOUR votes are being encouraged for the 2014 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards. The awards dinner will take place at Tudor Park Marriott Hotel and Country Park, Bearsted, near Maidstone, on November 13, 2014, from 6.30pm to midnight.

The prestigious awards, which launched in 2013, are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to Kent's outstanding food and drink industry.

From local producers and suppliers to small farming businesses, restaurants, chefs, pubs and hoteliers, all will be people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies featured will be nominated by you, our wonderful Kent Life and Kent on Sunday readers.

We want to know if you've received a fantastic meal at your local pub or been impressed by the produce and service at your local farmers' market or farm shop.

The nomination form is available in print form within both Kent on Sunday and Kent Life if you prefer to vote by post, available to complete or download online at www.kent-life.co.uk and at www.kentnews.co.uk, or you can email us at kentfda@archant.co.uk.

Entries close on August 1, 2014. Our hand-picked panel of high-profile judges, who all live and work in Kent, then select a short-list.

This kickstarts the independent judging process, when all the finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each of the 12 categories.

All finalists will be invited to the awards ceremony in November, when they will enjoy a fabulous reception and three-course meal prepared by Tudor Park's talented head chef Tom Biddle before finding out if they are a winner.

This is our second Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you once again the opportunity to reward and recognise the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry that go above and beyond expectations.

These awards are what you, our readers, make of them, so if you are the owner of a pub or restaurant, a chef or local producer, then spread the word among your clients, customers and visitors.

It takes no time at all to cast your vote. You can email or post your nominees. The judging panel is looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than simply the number of votes, so that everybody is in with a chance, no matter how big or small their business.

Don't forget to let us know on our Twitter pages @kentlife and @KOSMedia when you have made your vote, by using #kentfda – similarly, if you are looking for nominations, please use this hashtag.

TUDOR PARK
A MARRIOTT HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB

AWARDS CRITERIA

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

This popular category is open to anyone in the food or drink industry who has started a new venture within the last 18 months. We want to know what impact they have made on the local community and if they have started to achieve any success further afield. Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience or have they found a new way to promote an old favourite?

BUTCHER OF THE YEAR

This is your chance to praise your local butcher and everything they do. Consider asking your butcher how their meat is hung, prepared and cut and whether it can be traced to a local farm. Are the staff knowledgeable and helpful? Do they suggest new cuts for you to try? Do they use their expertise to prepare meat ready for the oven? Does your butcher play a key role within the local community? If so, nominate them!

TEA SHOP OF THE YEAR

Tea shops are an integral part of the Kent food and drink scene and we'd like to know your favourites. Who makes the best tea, serves the nicest cakes and the freshest scones? Is the jam homemade and are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled? Do they make tea feel like a special event? Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We're looking forward to hearing all about your favourites.

FOOD PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

New this year, this category celebrates our local food producers. We are looking for someone who consistently provides both top-quality local produce and service to their customers. We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, we'd like you to share it with us. If your local baker, grocer or farmer delights, let us know.

DRINK PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

New this year, this category celebrates our local drink producers. Whether it's gorgeous Kentish fizz or delicious juice, we want to find the producers who play such a vital role in the county's food and drink economy. We want to know who you think makes the best drink in Kent, alcoholic or not, and why it is so special. We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, for example a fabulous new flavour, we'd like to hear about it.

FARM SHOP OF THE YEAR

A good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt shoppers away from their local supermarket. Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable? Is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard? Does your local farm shop offer a box scheme? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm or nearby, and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from? Nominate your favourite now!

FARMERS' MARKET OF THE YEAR

The key to a good farmers' market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports – for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable? Is the layout easy to navigate as you move around the market? Are any extras offered on a regular basis, such as cookery demonstrations or talks? Is the market well advertised so you can plan your visit in advance and is there good accessibility and parking? Let us know so we can tell everyone about the best place to go.

PUB OF THE YEAR

A good pub these days has to offer more than a warm welcome and excellent ale. We are looking for an inn that also offers delicious and locally-sourced food with seasonal variations. As well as excellent food and drink, it must offer fantastic friendly customer service and real value for money. Good pubs are genuinely the hub of their local community. To misquote a popular TV programme, "pubs are all about ambience, ambience, ambience". If you know a great one, even if it isn't your local, let us all know by voting for them.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable dining experience, from the ambience to the service and, most importantly, the food. Are the ingredients locally sourced, do they support local producers and, if so, are they recognised on the menu? Look through their wine list – do they have local as well as international wines and fizz and can the staff tell you more if you ask? We'd expect nothing less from the 2014 Restaurant of the Year.

CHEF OF THE YEAR

Kent is blessed with outstanding chefs working in the county's fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted himself or herself to the cause of serving the best possible food. They will demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. They will be able to lead and inspire their team and to talk to customers knowledgeably about the dishes they have enjoyed. Above all, we are looking for passion – that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

CUSTOMER SERVICE OF THE YEAR

Another category that's new this year is Customer Service of the Year. Most of our awards recognise customer service in some form. This category celebrates this vital element for its own sake. Do you know an individual, organisation or establishment offering consistently excellent service that goes above and beyond what you expect? We all know great service when we have received it – now is your chance to get it recognised. If you know a person, company, producer, pub, shop or restaurant that is a delight to deal with, tell us.

KENT FOOD & DRINK HERO OF THE YEAR

Kent has a food and drink scene that is among the most vibrant in the UK, as you would expect from the Garden of England. This category celebrates the individual who has made a positive impact on the food or drink community – someone who goes the extra mile to promote Kent to a wider audience and is passionate about local produce throughout. Now is your chance to nominate your own Kent Food and Drink Hero.

KENT LIFE
Kent on Sunday
kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk
FOOD&DRINKAWARDS2014

Kent Life and *Kent on Sunday* Food & Drink Awards 2014 Nomination Form

Nominate your Kent food and drink favourites by using this form, or email us at **kentfda@archant.co.uk**

Please post your entry form to:
Food & Drink Awards 2014,
Archant KOS Media,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth,
Ashford TN25 6SS

Or you can email us at:
kentfda@archant.co.uk

Copies of the form and posters to advertise your entry are available at **www.kent-life.co.uk** and at **www.kentnews.co.uk**.

The closing date for entries is Friday, August 1, 2014.

Name.....
Address.....
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By entering your details you will be automatically added to the Archant database. Archant will contact you with relevant offers and you can unsubscribe from this at any time. If you would prefer not to be contacted, please state 'no offers' on this form.

Our 2013 Kent Food and Drink Hero, Stephanie Hayman, above, who has revolutionised school meals in east Kent. Who will be your choice of Hero for the 2014 top award?

Kent Food & Drink Hero of the Year
Sponsored by Canterbury Auction Galleries

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Butcher of the Year
Sponsored by Bybrook Barn

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Tea Shop of the Year
Sponsored by Gerald Lukehurst

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Food Producer of the Year
Sponsored by Perrys Chartered Accountants

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Drinks Producer of the Year
Sponsored by Anchor & Hope

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Farm Shop of the Year
Sponsored by Winterdale Cheesemakers

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Farmers' Market of the Year
Sponsored by MyFerryLink

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Pub of the Year
Sponsored by Eastwell Manor

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Restaurant of the Year
Sponsored by Rix & Kay

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Chef of the Year
Sponsored by Britelite

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Customer Service of the Year
Sponsored by Fenwick Canterbury

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Kent Food & Drink Hero of the Year
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Family fun a racing certainty with Buckmore Park's Turn Up'n'Drive

IT'S Family Day at Buckmore Park on Bank Holiday Monday, May 26.

Karting for all ages will be on offer for drivers aged four to 84!

Family Day is very special and only happens a few times each year.

From 10am-5pm, Buckmore Park Karting will open all three circuits to offer Turn Up'n'Drive karting for all the family.

There will be something for everyone:

- **4-7 years** – 6mph electric 'karts' on the kids' Mini GP Circuit (£15 for 14 minutes)
- **8-11 years** – 20mph petrol karts on the 300-metre club circuit (£25 for 20 minutes)
- **12-15 years** – 40mph petrol karts on the 600m National Circuit (£30 for 20 minutes)
- **16-84(!) years** – 390cc adult petrol karts on the National Circuit (£30 for 20 minutes)
- **Plus:** Fun passenger rides on the Club Circuit for those not wishing to drive themselves or drivers seeking an extra thrill. (£15 for 10 laps: minimum age five years).

There is no need to book – just turn up, sign in, kit up (everything provided), listen to a safety briefing... then it's time to hit the circuit.

Please allow time for your visit as queues can and do form at busy times.

Full details on this and other half-term activities can be found on www.buckmore4kids.co.uk.

■ **Buckmore Park Kart Circuit, Maidstone Road, Chatham, ME5 9QG (telephone 01634 661612, email sales@buckmore.co.uk, web www.buckmore4kids.co.uk)**

Waggon rolls into action for weekend

THE Waggon at Hale is an independent family-run traditional country pub on Capstone Road in Chatham.

Emma and her team offer a warm, friendly welcome; whether you are looking for somewhere to have a good old pint of real ale or a glass of wine or are looking to dine on the freshly-prepared food served all day, every day.

There is also a large beer garden where you can relax while your children play in safety in the play area or enjoy the small animal farm, which includes pigs, a goat, chickens, rabbits and guinea pigs as well as Onions the pub dog.

The Waggon at Hale is proud to be hosting its second Real Ale & Cider Festival from Friday to Monday, May 23-26.

With 12 great Kent ales and four Kent ciders at only £3 a pint, there's something for everyone… and not forgetting the weekend's line-up of great live music.

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REAL ALE & CIDER Festival
23RD-26TH MAY

The Waggon at Hale is proud to be hosting our second Real Ale & Cider Festival from Friday 23rd May until Monday 26th May. With 12 great Kent ales & 4 Kent ciders at only **£3 a pint** there will sure to be something for everyone. Plus we also have a great weekend of live music lined up!

179 Capstone Road, Chatham, Kent, ME5 7PP
Phone: 01634 400800 | www.waggonathale.com

WAGGON at HALE

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Community Weekend
Sun 25th & Mon 26th May
Trains depart Sittingbourne Viaduct station hourly 11am-4pm
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Date for your diary:
5/6th July - Steam & Beer

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The Age of Glamour

Saturday 17th May to Sunday 3rd August

Stunning caricatures from the Cartoon Museum's Sherriffs' collection of 1920s and 1930s portraits.

Including Garbo, Chaplin, Gloria Swanson, Ralph Richardson, Gracie Fields, Edith Evans, Stanley Holloway, Buster Keaton and many others.

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Cartoon Museum collection

MUSEUM OPENING TIMES:
Monday to Saturday 10:00 - 17:00
Sunday & Bank Holidays 12:00 - 16:00
@MaidstoneMuseum
www.museum.maidstone.gov.uk

Museums at Night

Having a great Bank Holiday is child's play at the Captain Digby

THE next Bank Holiday, on Monday, May 26, is a special day at the Captain Digby.

It is a Superheroes & Princesses Day, with children's entertainment throughout, including games and dancing.

There will also be prizes for those youngsters in fancy-dress.

Located on the cliff-top overlooking Kingsgate Bay, The Captain Digby provides some of the most stunning coastal views in Kent.

This really is the ideal venue for the whole family this coming Bank Holiday weekend, boasting indoor and outdoor children's play areas, a cosy traditional bar and ample seating in the large restaurant area.

If the Bank Holiday sunshine brightens proceedings, then enjoy your food or drinks on the cliff-top in the outside seating area and take in the views.

Literally a stone's throw from the beach, why not make a day of it and sit back and enjoy the freshly-prepared home-cooked food and vast range of beers and wines available?

The two large play areas will keep the kids entertained for hours while you sample some light bites – the ever-popular traditional fish and chips, or, if you are really hungry, the Shipmates Double Burger!

With a separate extensive menu for chldren, The Captain Digby really does provide something for everyone and is a must-visit on the next Bank Holiday weekend.

Booking is advisable on 01843 867764, or, if you're in a rush, book online at www.captaindigby.co.uk.

CHILL OUT: Stunning views make Captain Digby the perfect destination

Things will go swimmingly when Angela's teaching you

ANGELA'S Swim School encourages people of all ages and abilities to learn to swim to a high standard.

Angela's career as an international swimmer is what inspired her unique style of teaching.

Through the years she has taught more than 3,000 children and adults to swim, enjoying introducing them to this health-giving sport.

Angela's Swim School is proud to be a part of the Amateur Swimming Association and is offering a free taster session at all its new locations: Skeet Hill, Orpington; Mecure Maidstone; and King's School Rochester.

Contact the school to book. Spaces are limited and quote 'Splish and Splash' when booking.

■ **At half-term, the school is offering £5 off crash courses. Visit www.angelasswimschool.co.uk to find out more.**

Bank Holiday fun at the Captain Digby

Located on the cliff top overlooking Kingsgate Bay, is the Captain Digby restaurant and pub. Our award winning restaurant is perfect for couples and families alike and is one of Thanet's most popular places to dine all year round.

Choose from our delicious menu and our varied choice of wines

Loads of activities to keep the kids happy including our indoor and outdoor play area and face painting on the weekend.

Additional fun with loads of extras to do during the school breaks which will keep the kids occupied.

Book your table on line now to avoid disappointment.

The Captain Digby Kingsgate Broadstairs, CT10 3QH

Tel: 01843 867764
www.captaindigby.co.uk

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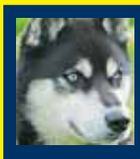

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call us on 01304 851 934
or visit www.park-resorts.com/caravan-sales

Charlie and Lola are at The Orchard to see what's new

PARENTS can entertain their children this half-term with the fantastic Charlie and Lola when they appear on stage at The Orchard Theatre in Dartford.

The duo will be back at the theatre on Monday and Tuesday, May 26-27, with their Extremely New Play... and this time they're bringing along Sizzles the Dog!

Children will enter a magical journey through the seasons as Charlie and Lola discover that everything is different and not the same.

Playful, funny and full of surprises, this extremely new play is all about friendship and adventures and is a treat for everyone.

This magical mix of puppets, live action and music is based on the much-loved books by Lauren Child and the ever-popular BBC TV series.

Ahead of their show, Charlie and Lola recently visited the theatre and enjoyed breakfast with Dartford's new mayor, Avtar Sandhu.

While here, the youngsters also visited the sweet shop as well as purchasing some tickets from the box office!

Charlie and Lola's Extremely New Play is recommended for children who are aged between three and six years old.

There are no loud bangs, strobe lights or scary moments and it lasts for about one hour and 15 minutes including an interval.

The show will be here on Monday and Tuesday, May 26-27.

Tickets are priced at £12.50 and £13.50, with £1.50 off for under-16s. A £1.50 per-ticket booking fee applies.

There is no fee for groups and Premiere Card members.

Pre-show dining is also available before the show.

The Orchard Theatre's restaurant provides a range of delicious, unique and memorable dishes, using the freshest local produce and prepared daily by the head chef.

Reserve your table when booking your show tickets.

For more information, visit orchardtheatre.co.uk or phone the box office on 01322 220000.

TUCK IN! The funny pair join Dartford's new mayor, Avtar Sandhu, for a tasty bite to eat at breakfast-time

ROYAL ENGINEERS MUSEUM LIBRARY & ARCHIVE

Royal Engineers Museum

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www.re-museum.co.uk

Animal park passports offer wild ol' time

TREAT the family to a wild adventure this coming Bank Holiday weekend.

Come and see the largest collection of western lowland gorillas in the world and the largest herd of African elephants in the UK, plus lions, tigers, giant anteaters, monkeys and many more, all at the multi-award-winning Howletts Wild Animal Park just outside Canterbury.

Walk with lemurs and get up close and personal by coming face-to-face with some of the amazing animals in their glass-fronted enclosures.

Feeling adventurous? Then try out the Treetop Challenge* or Animal Adventure Challenge*.

Or jump on board Kent's only safari at Port Lympne this next Bank Holiday weekend.

Take a ride on the wild side and embark on a great family adventure.

Port Lympne is one of the largest wild animal parks in the UK and home to more than 700 rare and endangered animals, including western lowland gorillas, the largest herd of black rhino in the UK, big cats, small cats, primates and more.

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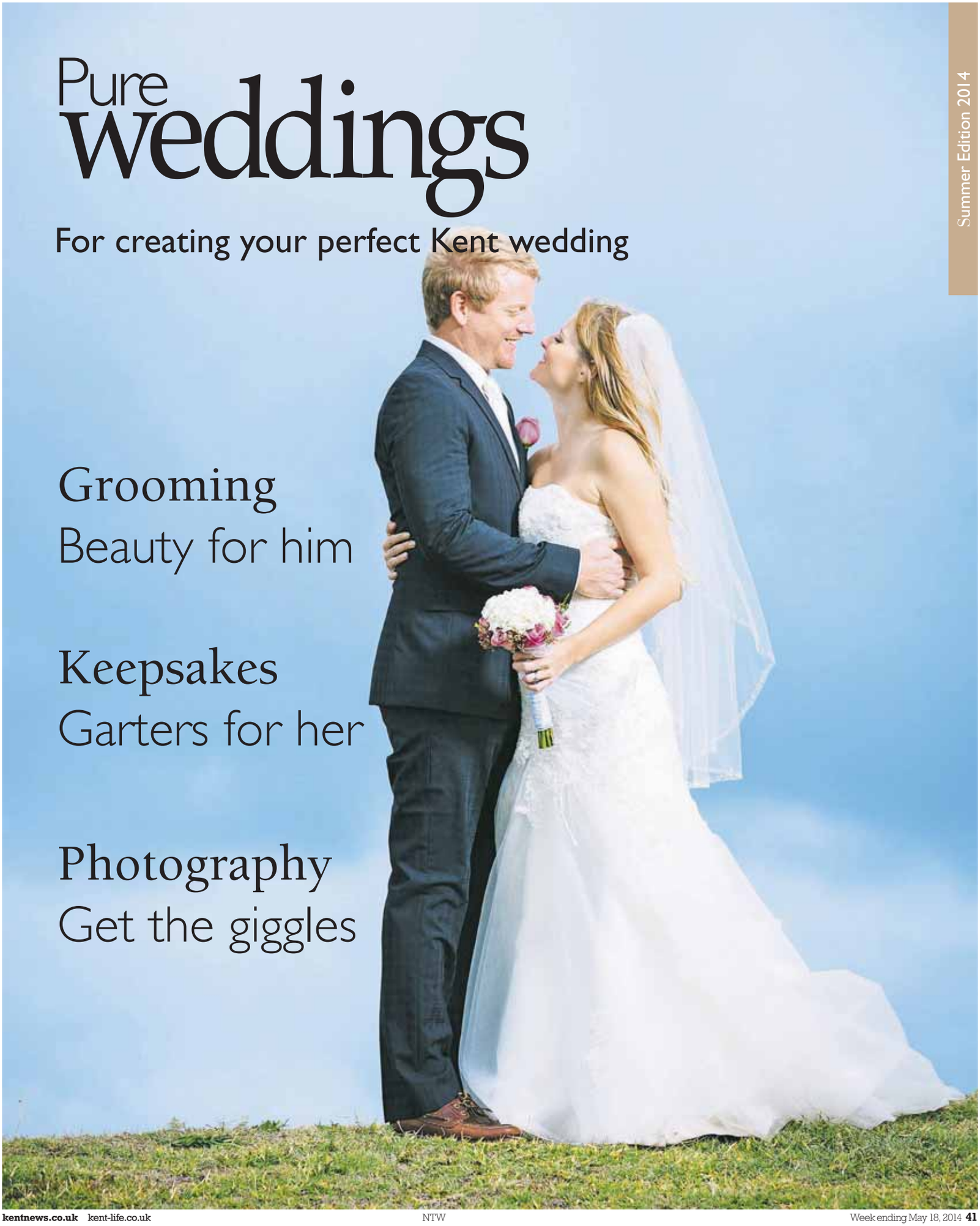

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Keepsakes
Garters for her

Photography
Get the giggles

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Looking good

Grooming

HEY fellas, you do realise that being called a groom is all about your grooming?

Your bride will be spending untold hours and effort to look her best – it's only right you do the same.

While the importance of getting 'wedding-day ready' is firmly focused on brides, more men than ever before are embracing the reality that it's not only the fairer sex who need to take good care of their skin.

Bridget-Clare O'Keeffe is the founder of bridal beauty concierge Sapphire Pink and she shares her expert tips for ensuring a 'well-groomed' groom ahead of the big day.

So, let's take a look at the run-up.

Bridget-Clare said that leading up to the big day regular facials are a relaxing, pampering treatment that will not only leave you with a healthy glow but also offer some relaxation away from the stresses of wedding planning.

Facials are especially suited for those who suffer from shaving problems such as ingrown hairs. For at-home facials, try steaming your face regularly; this will help with shaving rash as well as unblock any toxins clogging up the nose area.

You can do this by putting a fresh, clean towel soaked in hot water and wrung out over your face four or five times. Make sure you dry your face off well with a fluffy towel, too; this will help with reviving a dull complexion.

For many grooms the desire to lose weight and look trim is top of the wedding to-do list; however, it's important to ensure that this is achieved through a combination of eating healthily and regular exercise as opposed to crash-dieting.

Not only will regular exercise get you 'honey-moon fit' but the endorphins released will help with stress levels and ensure you can tackle your wedding admin with extra vigour.

Alongside regular exercise, make sure you are drinking at least two litres of water a day. Keeping your body hydrated with fresh water not only takes years off your appearance but will also make you feel better. Kick-start your day by downing a glass before you even get out of bed.

There is no better time to treat yourself to quality skincare products than in the run-up to your wedding. Top investment items are a good exfoliator, a nourishing moisturiser and, for those looking to reduce the appearance of fine lines, an eye cream to banish dark circles is essential.

And on the big day?

For a clean-cut look, opt for a hot-towel shave on the morning of the wedding. Not only will you get the closest shave of your life but it's a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Consider using a beauty balm, known as a BB cream, especially on the day of your wedding. It is not make-up, but it does give the benefit of it. Miracle BB creams even out your skin tone and opting for one with added witch hazel will tighten your pores.

For those blighted by oily skin, a guaranteed way to avoid a shiny forehead in wedding photographs is to use a mattifying cream on the morning of the big day.

It's important to not neglect your locks. Pop a drop of hair serum into the palms of your hands and run it through your hair before styling. This will help with shine and achieves an overall polished look in photographs; however, this is best avoided if your hair gets greasy easily.

Lastly, don't forget to enjoy the moment and smile – quite simply, this is the easiest and the very best tip to ensuring that you look great on your very biggest of days!

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Keepsakes

The garter

IT is a tradition that has evolved over the years to the present day – the groom removing his new bride's garter and tossing it bouquet-style to a group of single men in the party.

Whoever catches it is then supposed to place it on the leg of the single lady that caught the bride's spray of flowers. And the singles involved have plenty of good luck when they marry next.

So how the garter looks is important as it's going to be on public display for a while.

Selecting the right one will take some attention. The Wedding Garter Co is now offering an exclusive range of luxurious handmade garters.

The company says it is a great online boutique for discerning brides looking for the perfect 'hidden' accessory to complete their bridal look.

The collection comprises 10 bespoke pieces available in a range of intricate designs and colour-ways, starting at £48.

Made from the softest silks and delicate lace, the garters are adorned with fine crystals, pearls and Swarovski opals.

From statement pieces to sleek designs and created with form-fitting dresses in mind, there is a garter suitable for each and every bridal look.

Drawing upon Britten Wedding's signature detailing and fine craftsmanship, each piece from the collection is hand-sewn, every pattern hand-drawn and every piece of lace hand- cut, creating beautiful bridal heirlooms to be treasured for years to come, the company says.

Every garter is made to order from an ancient workshop in Bath and can be delivered around the world.

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For more information, visit weddinggarterco.com.

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THE wedding photographer can sometimes end up the most hated person at a ceremony – getting in the way, being bossy and shouty and then charging a small fortune for a bunch of blurry rubbish laid out in a cardboard book.

But some of the pain can be alleviated if the wedding party do their bit and cooperate quickly and painlessly, and it will all be over soon.

We asked one of Kent's top wedding photographers to tell us what the pitfalls are so that brides, and their families, get exactly what they want – at a price with which they are comfortable.

West Malling-based Michael Jackson, from Jackson and Co Photography, said: "Here's some advice on how to look good, regardless of budget.

"Looking good on your wedding day is what everyone wants. Nobody wants to look back on their incredible day and think 'If only I'd done it this way'.

"There's no magic cure, or easy fix, to make you look like cover models on your day, but there are definitely things that you can do to improve your wedding photos regardless of your budget.

"Firstly and most importantly, just relax. Don't pose and pout, just be yourselves, focus on one another, laugh and giggle and be happy and those photos will almost make them themselves.

"Most of us think that the best photos are the ones where we don't even realise they were being taken, and that's why you should almost ignore the camera and just focus on being happy and together, and giggle your way through it all.

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Photography

Relax, laugh and be happy

"Put yourself in nice light. If you're getting ready at home, clear an area by a nice large window to get ready in.

"Window light is soft, flattering and gorgeous and a photographer's dream to work in. Clear out anything in the room you wouldn't want in photos and make it as clutter-free as possible.

"Remember that it's not all about you. This might sound mean, but you're not hiring a photographer to photograph you for 12 hours, you're hiring them to photograph your entire celebration – whether it's the two of you looking fantastic, your little nephew not paying attention as you walk down the aisle, or Granny knocking back another G&T. These moments are the ones that you'll look back on for years.

"Finally, hire the best you can afford.

"Regardless of whether you're spending £250 or £2,500, you should meet your photographer to make sure you have a good rapport with each other and that you understand both what you'd like from your photos, and the type of photos the photographer enjoys taking.

"Make sure you're on the same page.

"There's no point hiring a super-traditional photographer if you're looking for something very relaxed and informal just because they're inexpensive. Ultimately, you only get to keep the rings and the photos.

"Make sure you invest wisely."

If you would like any further information, visit jacksonandcophotography.com.

IGNORE THE CAMERA AND FOCUS ON EACH

Relationships *Made for it*

IF YOU have wondered whether you have picked the right partner, have some sympathy for six people who have agreed to get hitched to a stranger just so TV cameras can watch.

For the vast majority of the population who believe love has to have something to do with getting married, this will jar dramatically.

For the audience it could be amusing – for the people involved, it could be a disaster or an outstanding success.

Channel 4 has taken the idea from a Danish show of the same name – so there is some evidence out there that this could work. The channel says there are now 15.7 million single adults in the UK and marriage is at an all-time low.

It wants to know if marriage and monogamy have had their day and even asks if, as a nation, we have forgotten how to fall in love.

Channel 4 has acquired the rights to develop Danish format Married At First Sight for a UK audience; this ground-breaking social experiment will see three couples matched by man and machine according to scientific and sociological criteria.

Chosen from an initial pool of more than 200 applicants, six single people, each seeking long-term love, will enter into a legally-binding marriage with a complete stranger – meeting for the very first time at their own wedding, where they'll declare 'I do' in front of family and friends.

Each of the single participants will be carefully matched by a panel of experts in the fields of psychology, psychotherapy, social and evolutionary anthropology and theology in the hope that their combined professional experience can create a 'perfect' match.

Cameras will then follow the couples for the first six weeks of their relationship as they share their daily lives with a stranger who could potentially become their soulmate. But, practicalities aside, Married At First Sight ultimately seeks to answer two questions.

Can science produce a successful relationship and can the act of marriage itself create a psychological bond, leading to true and enduring love?

CAN WE REALLY CHOOSE TO FALL IN LOVE?

For more than 20 years, leading psychologists have been researching the theory that human behaviour – such as acting lovingly towards another person – can actually spark the genuine emotional response in both parties… love? Is it really possible to 'choose' to fall in love?

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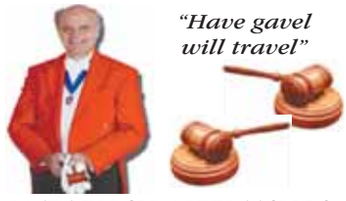

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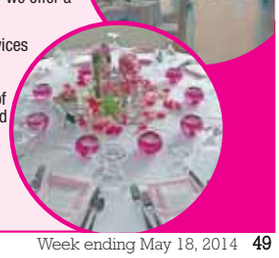

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

A [illegible] cancelled again

HOORAY, hooray! Just in time for the local and European elections, the A21 dualling between Tonbridge and Pembury has got the amber light.

This has been greeted with euphoria in some quarters, but we have been here twice already and the scheme has been cancelled.

The Highways Agency is saying it is not guaranteed to go ahead. The funding is not available until next year, when there is a general election.

The latest scheme has been based on a 'cheap' version that destroys many acres of ancient woodland. I predict that when preparatory work is completed, the costs will rise significantly and the scheme be in jeopardy once more.

Terry Cload, Pembury

Politicians just in it for own good

CONGRATULATIONS to John Durrant, Mick Carr and Phil Granger, for getting letters published in KoS that actually tell it as it is.

Contrast that to the fawning letter from Cllr Bob Backhouse, dropping in the names of Conservative candidates and wittering on about David Cameron's bogus offer of a referendum on EU membership in 2017.

Bogus, because it's only ever planned to take place if Mr Cameron is still the Prime Minister and (despite what he said on the Andrew Marr Show) if he manages to extract some so-called 'reforms' from the EU.

If it ever happens, the whole thing will be a sham. It's a political stunt to dupe the public into believing the Conservatives can deliver changes in the EU. Who believes it?

It's no wonder that so many of us have no respect for politicians.

They'll say whatever suits their purpose to get elected, then once in they'll do what they like.

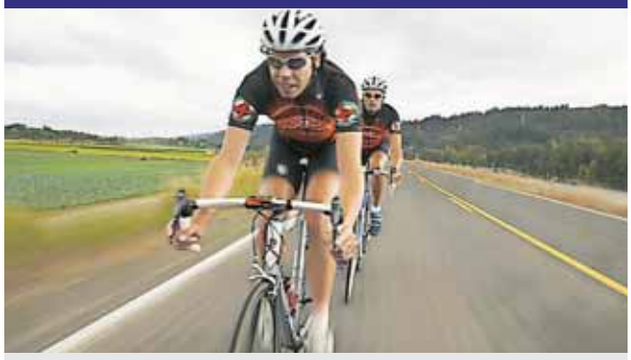
Any subsequent protests are met with 'no decision was taken until after the public had been consulted', when it's obvious from the number of objectors that the consultation process was just a cosmetic exercise and politicians with an agenda to pursue never had any intention of actually taking notice of any views with which they do not agree.

Only a few weeks ago, after I had a letter published in KoS about people being ignored when it came to planning decisions and comparing that to the remoteness of decision-making in the EU, another politician, this time from Labour, had a letter published accusing me of taking 'a massive leap of faith' just for making the comparison. Yet another 'we know best' politician.

It's difficult to find any politician who doesn't give the impression they're in it for their own aggrandisement – and the EU is the most glaring example.

Christopher Hudson-Gool, Maidstone

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Team Lycra lunatics a mid-week menace

CAN any of your readers explain to me how, in the middle of a working week, every road you drive down you encounter six or seven Lycra-clad lunatics on racing bikes, holding up everyone going about their day-to-day work?

How can all these irritating cyclists all get the day off work at the same time? And if they're unemployed, why aren't they actively seeking employment as part of their jobseekers' agreement, instead of annoying everyone else on the road?

They claim to be environmentally friendly, but every car journey they delay puts more pollution into the atmosphere than it would have done had that car not been stuck behind a cyclist.

So next time you miss the bus to the two-piece jigsaw club, Einstein, leave the bike at home and take the car. It's more environmentally friendly because you're not delaying everyone else and winding them up.

I would also suggest you don't waste your money on a helmet camera and buy a copy of the Highway Code to read and inwardly digest instead.

It states cyclists should ride in single file on the road, not two abreast, as a lot of you do – that way you won't wind up the motorist so much and you wouldn't need the helmet camera, which is an infringement of people's privacy as you don't have their permission to film them.

Graham Stevens, Faversham

We need political earthquake

WE need the earthquake in British politics that Ukip may well deliver, otherwise nothing will change policy-wise or politician behaviour-wise.

Without a change of earthquake proportions, Britain will slip further into third world conditions which many are already experiencing.

Edward La Coste, Lamberhurst

Undemocratic and corrupt… the EU

HOW tragic that, according to your correspondent Dr Bullion [KoS 04.05.14], Ukraine is desperate to join the EU to embrace democratic values and to fight corruption.

Someone should explain to them two things – firstly, the EU is totally undemocratic, and, secondly, the EU is the most corrupt financial regime in the western world, wasting hundreds of billions of euros annually without trace due to fraud, theft, graft, expenses fiddles and endless sharp practice.

Any auditor or EU accountant protesting against this, or trying to expose these rackets, is simply kicked out of their job to protect the guilty.

N Hughes, Folkestone

Concreting over limited land mass

JUST like many other local newspapers, we often read about people protesting about proposed large housing developments in their area – and no wonder when we have a population growth of three times the EU average.

We are already the second most densely populated country in the EU.

So as we continue to concrete over our limited land mass, people should think very carefully about who they will be voting for in the forthcoming European elections.

Terry Hudson, Whitstable

Our salvation is not in our hands

RECENT reports and articles in KoS have concentrated on job losses if we leave the EU and uncontrolled immigration, which has been conveniently twisted into nasty racism by those with nothing sensible to say in support of the EU.

Other more serious issues have been quietly left in the shadows.

America, Canada and Mexico formed a trading bloc, the North America Free Trade Area (NAFTA), but neither Canada nor Mexico have abolished their governments to be ruled by Washington.

They are all independent nations trading freely with each other and enjoying certain privileges, as we should with Europe.

Anyone watching the EU parliament on TV will have heard them talking openly about "this federal Europe we are creating".

In January, EU commissioner Viviane Reding said: "In a federal Europe there will be only one government – the EU in Brussels – so get used to it."

What Brussels and our politicians will not tell you is that we will be ruled by 700 foreigners in Brussels, most of whom we have never heard of. Our ancient democratic Parliament will be irrelevant and scrapped.

All countries should be allowed to determine their own salvation, unfettered and unhampered by red tape imposed by unelected foreigners. In the EU we are not.

Roger Arnold, Herne Bay

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

images of kent

Kent Downs

by **Brian Summers from Faversham**

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Recycling plant plans to turn plastics into profit

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

WORK on constructing a major £12.5 million recycling facility in Rochester got under way this week.

The major new site will be capable of processing 75,000 tonnes of mixed plastics each year - transforming them into clean plastic capable of being used in the production of new plastic products and packaging.

The plant will also be able to separate up to 10,000 tonnes of glass.

Construction will see a number of jobs created, with up to 26 posts expected to be created once the plant is fully operational.

If all goes to plan, the plant will be up and running by the early autumn.

The site is being created for recycling firm Viridor and delivered by Stadler UK.

Kings Hill-based Herman van der Meij, director of resource management for Viridor, said: "Our industry is at the heart of making the green economy a reality.

"Making the most of the resources we have within the UK is becoming increasingly important as it creates employment opportunities and helps the country achieve its ambitions of becoming a leader in sustainability.

RECYCLE: Work starts on plant

"We have had a strong presence in the south east of England for quite some time, developing resource-management infrastructure as well as investing in our people to make sure we deliver a high quality service and added-value to our customers as well as value to society and broader stakeholders.

"This latest investment is a signal of our real commitment towards helping develop a circular economy in the UK."

Speaking on behalf of Recoup, a leading authority on plastics waste and resource management, Stuart Foster said: "We are delighted to see another plastics recycling facility come on stream.

"It is imperative the UK is able to recycle more of its plastic resource as this will cut the use of virgin feedstock, help achieve the increasing packaging recycling targets, reduce the CO2 load and, very importantly, significantly reduce the amount of plastic which ends up in landfill."

Trevor Smart, UK sales manager at Stadler UK, said: "The combination of our expertise in the design and delivery of plastics recycling facilities and excellent working relationship with Viridor will see this multi-million pound, state of the art facility open for processing later this year."

The recycling complex will be based on the Medway City Estate.

Firm picks up depot award

A RAMSGATE courier company has been named South East Depot of the Year for the second year in a row after increasing the number of parcels it handles for local businesses and individuals by more than 15 per cent.

APC East Kent fought off stiff competition from 28 courier companies to claim the title at the APC Overnight 20th anniversary annual awards ceremony.

Boss Anthony Bird said: ''It's a ringing endorsement.''

Brush up your people skills

A LAW firm will be co-hosting a seminar this Tuesday on people management.

'Optimising Your People and Navigating Employment Law' is being held at St Julian's Club, Sevenoaks, and is aimed at local business owners and directors.

The event is held in conjunction with Clear Path Administration. To register contact events@keystonelaw.co.uk with your name and details.

Subway to make a meal in the county with 30 new stores

FAST expanding sandwich chain Subway has confirmed it is to open 30 new stores across the county over the next five years.

And with 15 branches also opening in Surrey, it aims to create a minimum of 450 jobs.

Spearheading the growth is Subway development agent for Kent and Surrey, Hemina Haque.

He is responsible for growing the franchise in line with consumer demand and heading up teams that offer support to franchisees on aspects such as site selection, leasing, purchasing and marketing.

He said: "The expansion plans are in response to the increasing consumer demand in the region.

"With a population of three million in Kent and Surrey, we believe these plans are very achievable over the next five years and we are actively looking to attract local entrepreneurs to become franchisees operating these new stores."

In addition to finding and opening stores in traditional high street locations, retail parks and shopping centres, the brand's development within the non-traditional sector is set to increase dramatically over the coming years in partnership with leading convenience stores and forecourt owners such as Euro Garages, Applegreens, Budgens and Spar.

Mr Haque added: "Across the UK there are 20 regional offices run by development agents like myself, my development team and field staff.

"We are all on hand to offer advice, support and guidance throughout the initial process of becoming a franchisee and on an ongoing basis. Many of our franchisees go on to become multi-unit owners but with our development plans we need to be bringing in new franchisees."

There are already 66 Subway stores in Kent and Surrey.

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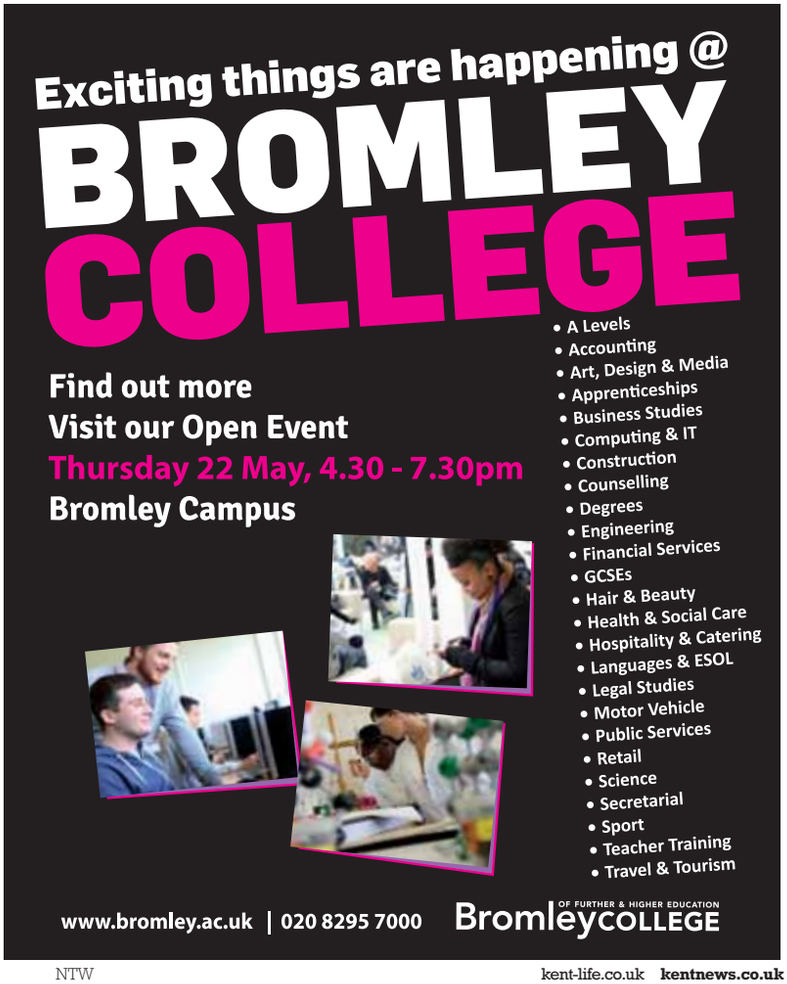

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Mamma Mia Dirty Dancing & Movie Songs Seaside Party

Free Drinks

OVER 40s ONLY

Pontins Pakefield Resort, Suffolk Coast

We have booked the entire Pontins Pakefield resort for another private party break – for over 40s only. Come with us to the seaside near Lowestoft, Suffolk, and find out why our guests return again and again to our exclusive, themed parties. Enjoy great entertainment featuring music from Mamma Mia courtesy of a top Abba tribute band, and a spectacular Dirty Dancing tribute show complete with the famous lift. Plus, special guest act Ultim8 sing your favourite, iconic songs from the movies including Grease, Mamma Mia and many more.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- 3 free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet with electric, bed linen, towels, TV, tea & coffee making facilities - upgrade available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

SELF DRIVE
27 June 2014
3 NIGHTS HALF BOARD + FREE DRINKS
£129pp
Quote: SP6-KOS

Pakefield Party Reviews:

"We would like to say a big thank you to GN Holidays and your team at the 60s Xmas party at Pakefield. We all had one of our best weekends for a long time. We are all looking forward to your March weekend. Once again thank you to GN Holidays, you have a great company." *Mr Lineham*

"Please pass on to the GN Holidays management and entertainment team that we again had a fabulous party break at Pakefield. The atmosphere was brilliant, so friendly, relaxing, and very entertaining. Thank you again for giving people such a happy time." *Gaye Fox*

Original 60s Bands

£10pp deposit

Over 40s only

Swinging 60s Christmas Party

Pontins Pakefield Resort, Suffolk Coast

Join us for a cool weekend of swinging 60s sounds at Pontins seaside resort near Lowestoft, Suffolk. We've booked the whole resort and a great line up of original 60s bands and entertainment to bring you this fun-packed private party break. Everything you need is here - good company - great music - great food and free drinks.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- 3 free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet with electric, bed linen, towels, TV, tea & coffee making facilities - upgrade available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

SELF DRIVE
14 November 2014
3 NIGHTS HALF BOARD + FREE DRINKS
£129pp
Quote: US11-KOS

Alvin Stardust

Abba tribute

Rod Stewart Tribute

Frankie Valli Tribute

Over 40s only

Super 70s Christmas Party

£10PP DEPOSIT

Pontins Pakefield Resort, Suffolk Coast

Join us for a fab, festive weekend of swinging 70s sounds at Pontins seaside resort near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Enjoy an entertainment packed break with leather-clad 70s rocker Alvin Stardust performing live plus Abba, Rod Stewart and Frankie Valli tribute acts. We've booked the whole resort and thrown in (not literally!) 3 free drinks per person every night.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- 3 free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet with electric, bed linen, towels, TV, tea & coffee making facilities - upgrade available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

SELF DRIVE
21 November 2014
3 NIGHTS HALF BOARD + FREE DRINKS
£129pp
Quote: MS11-KOS

Car Ferry included

£10pp deposit

Over 40s only

Swinging 60s Christmas Party

Warner Norton Grange, Isle of Wight

£10PP DEPOSIT

Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, Free Car Ferry and a super location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, at Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight, our most popular Christmas Party venue. This Christmas we're featuring original 60s band The Fourmost, super all-rounder Little Miss Sixties plus lots of festive and nostalgic fun. There's also a Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Free bar from 6pm to midnight every evening for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea and standard coffee
- Entertainment & Activities programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet with electric, bed linen, towels, TV, tea & coffee making facilities - upgrade available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- Car ferry crossing worth £45

SELF DRIVE
28 November 2014
3 NIGHTS HALF BOARD + FREE DRINKS
£229pp
Quote: SS11-KOS

SO STYLISH: Peugeot's new 308 SW offers space with stunning design, a class-leading range of frugal engines and much-improved interior quality

A 'purrfect' use of space

The Lion marque has a history of making stylish and versatile estates dating back to 1958 and the new 308 SW is no exception... it's very economical, too!

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FRESH from the success of being voted European Car of the Year 2014, Peugeot's slick new 308 hatchback gets a smart new estate sister next month.

The 308 SW will no doubt also add to the considerable lift in volumes for the new 308 compared with its dated predecessor, which has driven Peugeot to create a third shift at its French plant to cope with demand in the UK and Europe.

The SW (from £16,845) is a sleek yet spacious estate that offers all the qualities of its hatchback sister in terms of design, fuel efficiency and higher quality, along with a 660-litre boot – the largest in this Golf/Focus/Astra size segment – and a 1,660-litre cargo bay with seats folded.

It continues a long estate tradition by the French marque begun by the 403 version of 1958, with smaller 300 Series variants starting in 1969 with the 304.

There's been a resurgence of interest in estates lately, too, as some owners step back from the MPV/people-carrier in favour of a more conventional driving and handling experience, while others decide that a hatchback or saloon simply cannot accommodate their more active lifestyle.

Peugeot research shows buyers of estates in the 308's market segment are now younger, more dynamic and more male than in general.

They are popular with working couples, with or without children, who use their vehicle intensively and cover the highest mileage in the segment; they need versatility without having to make sacrifices in comfort, driving enjoyment and styling.

Whoever these 308 SW recruits will be, though, they will have a good choice of engines: three petrol and five HDi diesel units, all offering class-leading fuel economy and low CO_2 emissions.

The new 308 range is also the first Peugeot to benefit from a clever three-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine – the PureTech 1.2-litre e-THP with a choice of 110 or 130bhp.

Also available will be eco diesels branded with Peugeot's BlueHDi label, including a 120bhp 1.6-litre with emissions of just 85g/km of CO_2 – well below the 100g/km mark at which road tax is payable.

Most options come with fuel-and-emissions-saving Stop-Start and there is a six-speed auto gearbox option within the range, too.

Four spec levels are offered. The entry version is Access, which has generous standard equipment including LED daytime running lights, LED rear lamps, colour-coded door mirrors and handles, a parcel shelf that can be stowed for protection beneath the boot floor, air-con, electric front windows, remote-controlled central locking, cruise-control with speed-limiter and DAB digital radio sound system plus USB and Bluetooth connectivity.

The higher grades are: Active (from £18,295), Allure (from £19,745) and Feline (from £22,095), with the last getting the brand's impressive Cielo full panoramic glass roof – a buyers' favourite on other Peugeots.

Based on our findings with the 308 hatchback, would-be buyers need to check that they can get comfortable behind the wheel – it took some fine-tuning for me to ensure the steering wheel does not obscure some part of the instrumentation.

The touchscreen is a bit fussy, even if it will probably become second nature to most people.

On the road, the car feels light and nimble; not surprising, when the 308 benefits from a new and much lighter modular platform, tipped to underpin many other new Peugeots.

Preview

Peugeot 308 SW

Price:	from £16,845
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	VW Golf Estate

» Read more of Steve's motoring reviews in... KENT LIFE

Other view...

the Petrolhead
A classy-looking car for an estate but economy seems to be the focus for the engine line-up... not much in the fun department

She says
Trust a French brand to create a chic estate - I can see me on a cross-Channel shopping trip in one of these

the Eco-warrior
Unlike my colleague above, I'm impressed by the engine line-up for this elegant yet practical and economical workhorse

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Official fuel consumption for the Yeti range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 28.8 (9.8) to 54.3 (5.2); Extra Urban 42.8 (6.6) to 67.3 (4.2); Combined 36.2 (7.8) to 61.4 (4.6). CO_2 range emissions 184 to 119g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

NEW LOOK: Skoda's popular and versatile Yeti has a new face and, for going off-road, an 'Outdoor' guise with a more efficient and lighter 4x4 system

Making a fresh set of tracks with Yeti

Skoda's far from abominable SUV gets an impressive makeover to maintain its ability to tackle both town and country, says **Steve Loader**

TRACKING the Skoda Yeti's identity has been as hard as finding its namesake, the Abominable Snowman.

Since launch in 2009, the Czech marque's jack-of-all trades has been a crossover, eco-friendly holdall, thanks to its frugal Greenline version. Family wagon, sportsman's rucksack, bullish 4x4, executive SUV, you name it...

Skoda has now sought to clarify the situation by launching a heavily revamped 'New Yeti' (from £16,600) available in two distinct guises: Yeti and Yeti Outdoor.

No prizes for guessing that the latter offers more than 'funky chunky' 4x4-style add-ons and a slightly higher ride height. Even without a set of lower gear ratios, the Yeti had proven before that it was well able to rough it off-road when fitted with 4x4. The Outdoor (from £19,580) offers an upgraded 4x4 system that is lighter and more efficient than before, benefiting economy and emissions.

The bumpers also have steeper approach and departure angles for cross-country 'yomping'.

But Skoda also saw that many Yeti-buyers wanted more urban crossover – family hatch and MPV functionality blended with SUV style – so the standard front-wheel-drive-only Yeti cuts a more civilised dash against the rufty-tufty Outdoor version.

Nevertheless, both variants carry over the same practical boxy body featuring trademark curvy front side windows, plus noticeable cosmetic changes: Skoda's new corporate 'clipped moustache' grille replaces the rather frumpy and curvaceous chrome-topped job, while the rear

number plate recess carries the corporate triangle 'facets' introduced on other recent Skodas like the Rapid and latest Octavia.

Our test car was a Yeti Outdoor in penultimate Elegance trim with the top engine option – a powerful 170PS (168bhp and 44.8mpg combined cycle) 2.0-litre turbodiesel available only to 4x4 versions.

With the VW's group's smooth and efficient twin-clutch auto/manual DFG gearbox (£1,100 extra), this weighs in at £25,625.

Stubborn badge snobs may well puff their cheeks and exhale loudly, and more so when they hear that the Laurin & Klement-range flagship tops out at £27,050, but the Yeti carries it off rather well.

Judge the car on its merits and the Yeti, in whatever trim, looks typically good value for money, though VW's Czech arm shouts less about price lately and simply lets the products do the talking.

Looking beyond Elegance-level trappings such as full leather seats with heated front ones, rain sensor wipers and 'cornering' front fog lights, the Yeti's high quality, durable build and finish shines through.

The interior was always one of the most space-efficient and versatile, so generous head and legroom is carried over, along with three individual rear seats that can be adjusted for rake, slid forward or back, folded in various permutations, or even removed to expand the 510-litre boot into a massive 1,760-litre cargo area.

A high-lift, top-hinged tailgate also creates a useful rain shelter when 'grandstanding' and picnicking at events.

The dashboard is typically well arranged, with a durable feel, and if all this isn't enough to silence those diehard Skoda-knockers, there is the Yeti's snappy on-road behaviour to admire, too: responsive steering, well -mannered handling and cornering – even in our relatively high Outdoor version – decent ride quality and refinement.

Ours was also fitted with the optional £1,100 panoramic electric sunroof that really lights up the cabin – a worthwhile luxury.

But if it's cheaper running costs you want, then ultra-eco Greenline II variants start at £18,095, offering a 105PS (103bhp) 1.6 TDI diesel that emits just 119g/km of CO_2, so that will cost nothing in road tax for year one and just £30 a year thereafter, while offering 61.4mpg combined.

NTW

Skoda Yeti Outdoor 2.0TDi 170 4x4 DFG Elegance

Price:	£25,625
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£175/yr
Best rival:	Nissan Qashqai

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FirstGEAR
Motoring news

Luxurious Octavia

SKODA has added a luxurious Laurin & Klement flagship to its all-new Octavia hatchback and estate line-up (from £26,570).

Two engines are offered: a turbocharged 178bhp 1.8-litre petrol or 148bhp 2.0-litre diesel, with six-speed manual transmission or the VW Group's DSG automatic box. A 4x4 diesel manual transmission is also available for the estate.

Upmarket L&K trimmings include chrome window-surrounds, brown Alcantara and leather upholstery and electrically-adjusted driver's seat.

Qashqai crowned

INFLUENTIAL Diesel Car magazine has made the all-new second-generation Nissan Qashqai the Best Crossover and overall Car of the Year at its annual awards.

DC editor/publisher Ian Robertson said on top of creating the sector with the Qashqai, "Nissan also romps away in the sales charts with the UK's number one best-selling crossover".

He also praised a "no-compromise class-leading approach to its design" and being UK-produced.

Bullitt re-creation

STEVE McQueen's epic car chase from Bullitt (1968) is still reckoned one of the best in movie history.

A modern-day recreation has now been posted on YouTube to publicise this year's Silverstone Classic (July 25-27) and celebrate 50 years of the Ford Mustang (pictured above right), the car that Hollywood legend McQueen drove in Bullitt as he pursued the bad guys' Dodge Charger (left) – another 'muscle car' of the era.

Kent on Sunday

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ARCHANT Inspiring Communities Kent on Sunday KENT LIFE

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Salary: Thamesview Qualified Teacher Scale

Closing date: 6th June 2014, 9.00 am

Interviews: w/c 16th June 2014

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We are seeking to appoint an outstanding classroom practitioner who will work with a committed and inspiring Creative Arts Department in raising achievement further.

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- Have a proven track record of achievement; and
- Be a consistently good or outstanding teacher.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our children and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities and bespoke leadership pathways.

If you are interested in joining us in our journey towards becoming an outstanding school please contact our HR Manager on **01474 566552 ext 1120**; email **m.thomson@thamesview.kent.sch.uk** for further information or to arrange a visit.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students. Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau. Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy

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Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 6th June 2014
Interviews: 20th June 2014

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

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Shepway District Council

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/0581/SH – 104 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2BS - Installation of an ATM, following removal of existing ATM.

Y14/0544/SH - 9A & 9B Defiant Close Hawkinge Folkestone Kent CT18 7SU - Variation of condition 11 of Y10/0739/SH (mixed used development comprising the erection of 4, three storey blocks providing 8 ground floor commercial units (Classes A1, A2, A3, B1 uses) and 48, two bedroom apartments above, together with associated access, parking, landscaping and open space.) to include use of ground floor commercial unit in Block 2 as a doctors' surgery (Class D1 use).

Y14/0537/SH - Flat A 203 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2HT - Erection of a replacement shed.

Y14/0264/SH - Pinehurst Radnor Cliff Crescent Folkestone Kent CT20 2JH - Rolling consent on a three yearly basis for a maximum period of 9 years to cut back re growth of a number of Sycamore trees to previous points and the removal of self-set Sycamore saplings, all subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 4 of 2009.

Y14/0585/SH# - Netherstone Madeira Road Littlestone New Romney Kent - Felling of two Poplar trees situated within a conservation area.

Y14/0578/SH# - Coach Depot King Street Brenzett Kent - Erection of a block of 4 two storey dwellings, with some rooms in roof, and a block of 5 two storey dwellings, with some rooms in roof, and 2 semi-detached dwellings together with associated parking, sewerage treatment plant and accessway, following demolition of buildings.

Y14/0249/SH - 59 Earls Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2HA - Felling of an Ash and a Sycamore tree situated within a conservation area.

Y14/0433/SH† - Eaton Lands South Castle Road Hythe Kent - Reduction of 6 lateral limbs of an Ash Tree situated within a conservation area.

Y13/1259/SH# - The Star Inn 16 Station Road Lydd Romney Marsh Kent - Change of use and conversion to two semi detached dwellings, together with external alterations.

Y14/0577/SH† - Garage House Ashford Road Newingreen Hythe Kent - Variation of condition 10 of planning permission Y12/0434/SH to allow the building to be used for Class B1 (business) purposes and not restricted to use for office purposes in conjunction with the operation of the site as a builders premises.

Y14/0302/SH# - Dyke End Cottage Madeira Road Littlestone New Romney Kent - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising felling of seven Leylandi followed by the planting of replacement trees and 30% reduction in height and re-shape a row of Leylandi trees.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 - Article 8-Notice of an application for planning permission accompanied by an Environmental Statement

Application Reference :	SW/14/0257	Case No: 08884 + 02262
Proposal :	A) Outline component: Residential development for 375 dwellings with all matters reserved other than the means of access and realignment of the Oare Road and Ham Road junction on land at Oare Mineral Works (North of Oare Road and west and south of Ham Road) Faversham, Kent. B) Detailed component: Change of use from storage and vacant uses of the former Gunpowder Works Listed buildings to provide 873 square metres of offices, workshop-studios, storage, and 714 square meters of community uses (with retention of the 2 existing dwellings) including minor internal alterations to form toilet and washroom facilities and the formation of associated parking areas, earth bund engineering works, country park, landscaping, demolition of plant & buildings, illustrative details of landscaped parking area; on land at Oare Mineral Works (north of Oare Road and west and south of Ham Road), Faversham, Kent. (Please note additional information – Transport Assessment Addendum)	
Location:	Land at Oare Gravel Works, Ham Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7TS	

THE ABOVE DEVELOPMENT MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING

THIS APPLICATION IS FOR A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT

THIS APPLICATION MAY AFFECT A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

THIS APPLICATION DOES NOT ACCORD WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

THIS APPLICATION MAY BE OF A WIDER PUBLIC INTEREST

THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

I give notice that an application accompanied by an Environmental Statement has been submitted to Swale Borough Council for the above development. Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, the plans, and other documents submitted with it at the Planning Services Reception, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, during normal office hours of Sheerness District Officer, Trinity Road, Sheerness.

Members of the public can obtain a hard copy of the Environmental Statement for £200.00 (Plus £100.00 for appendices and drawings) or £25.00 for a CD.

Contact : SLR Consulting Limited, 83 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0HW

Tel: 0203 6915810

This application can also be viewed via our partnership with the UK Planning website (www.ukplanning.com/swale), but this may take up to 7 days to be completed. When using this website please use application reference SW/14/0257. You may submit any observations on the application via the website.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Planning Services Manager, Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT by 02 June 2014.

Please note by law, any letters received have to be made available for inspection by the applicant or any other interested person.

James Freeman,
Head of Development Services

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES

Members' Allowances Scheme 2014/15

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 No. 1021 Part 3 (16) the Council is required after making or amending a scheme to make arrangements for its publication. Full Council on 20 February 2013 considered the recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel and agreed an alternative lowest cost scheme from 2013/14 thereby complying with its duty under regulation 19. Full details are available on the Council's website www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk under part 6 of the constitution.

The basic and special responsibility allowances payable under the Members' Allowance Scheme for the financial year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 were agreed by Full Council on 26 February 2014 to remain frozen as follows;

	Allowance (£)
Basic Allowance for all Councillors	5,500
Minority Group Leaders	275 per member (incl. leader)
Special Responsibility Allowances	
Leader	19,250
Cabinet Member	11,000
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee	1,375
Chairman of Licensing	1,375
Chairman of General Purposes	1,375
Chairman of Joint Transportation Board	1,375
Chairman of Audit & Governance Committee	1,375
Chairman of Planning Committee	5,500
Vice Chairman of Planning Committee	1,320
Other Allowances	
Co-opted Members and Independent Members of Audit & Governance Committee	800

The number of Special Responsibility Allowances and the overall cost of the scheme has been reduced.

Only one Special Responsibility Allowance may be claimed in addition to the Basic Allowance, except for Minority Group Leaders.

In accordance with Part 3 (13) of the Regulations any member may elect to forgo all or part of his/her entitlement to allowances by notifying the Interim Finance Director.

In addition, the following travel and subsistence allowances are also payable under the Members' Allowances Scheme:-

Childcare and Dependent Carers' Allowance

An allowance for any approved duty of £6.19 per hour per child and £16.00 per hour respectively.

Travel Allowance Rates:

The motor vehicle mileage rates will be paid in accordance with the approved mileage rates published by HM Revenues and Customs. The current rates are as follows:

	First 10,000 business miles in a tax Year	Each business mile over 10,000 in a tax year
Cars and vans	45p	25p
Motor cycles	24p	24p
Bicycles	20p	20p

Re-imbursement will be limited to comparable costs of using public transport where the Head of Finance and Governance determines that public transport was a practical alternative.

Travel by Bus, Rail and Taxi will be the actual standard fare paid.

Subsistence Allowances:

Rates are those published by the South East Employers for 2010/11 and frozen. Re-imbursement is upon submission of a receipt up to a maximum of:-

Breakfast £6.88

Lunch £9.50

Dinner £11.76

Accommodation: reasonable actual cost

Paper copies of any of the above documents can also be provided by contacting Democratic Services, on 01892 554219. These documents can also be viewed during office hours at the Gateway customer centre in Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells.

Lee M. Colyer CPFA
Interim Finance Director (s151 Officer)
Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN1 1RS

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

PLANNING

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 02 JUNE 2014

SW/14/0128:
Listed Building Consent for retrospective removal of internal plasterboard wall - Walnut Tree House, The Street, DODDINGTON; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/14/0483 & SW/14/0484:
Further temporary suspension of the terms of condition 7 of planning permission SW/02/0584 to allow use as a self contained dwelling let on short - hold tennacies of up to 12 months for a period of 5 years - Provender, Provender Lane, NORTON; **REASONS 2 & 4**

SW/14/0502:
Erection of poultry shed and grainstore, with associated access tracks, hardstandings, turning areas, land profiling and feed silos - Woodland Farm, High Oak Hill, NEWINGTON; **REASONS 1 & 3**

SW/14/0504:
External insulation and rendering of property - 1 Ospringe Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/14/0513:
Use of additional floorspace within existing buildings for the sale of non-plant specific/related products - Gardening World , London Road, NEWINGTON; **REASON 3**

SW/14/0518:
Single storey timber outbuilding - Coldstream Cottage, Eastling Road, OSPRINGE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/14/0524:
Single storey extension to rear of existing school building to accommodate reception class - Milstead & Frinstead C of E Primary School, School Lane, MILSTEAD; **REASON 2**

SW/14/0540:
Change of use from residential to a mixed use for residential and business use consisting of weddings, lunches, dinners, society events and general fundraisers - Provender, Provender Lane, NORTON; **REASONS 2 & 4**

SW/14/0542:
Two storey rear extension to provide kitchen/living at ground floor, bedrooms/bathroom and en-suite at first floor, pavement crossover from Bysinng Wood Road to provide off road parking - 58 Bysing Wood Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 4**

SW/14/0551:
Outline application for the erection of 13 two storey dwellings, new access road and associated car parking - Barrow Green Farm, Lower Road, TEYNHAM; **REASON 3**

SW/14/0553:
Install replacement windows to front of property - 24 London Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS)

(RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS OF WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING)

CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2010 (AMENDMENT NO 15)

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes the following restrictions –

No waiting at any time on the following roads:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE: **Keyes Place**, Both sides, from its junction with **Hill Road**, north east for a distance of 12 metres; Hill Road, North east side, from a point 13.3 metres north west of its junction with Keyes Place to a point 15.5 metres south east of that junction; **Station Road**, Both sides, from its junction with Beachborough Road, north west for a distance of 15 metres; **The Stade**, Both sides, from a point in line with the party wall of numbers 10 and 11, east for its entire length; **The Warren**, Both sides, from its junction with Wear Bay Road, for its entire length; **Unnamed rear of Copthall Gardens**, Both sides, for its entire length; ROADS IN DYMCHURCH: **Burmarsh Road**, Both sides, from its junction with **Dymchurch Road** (A259), north for a distance of 127 metres; Dymchurch Road, North west side, from a point 26 metres east of its junction with Burmarsh Road to a point 21 metres south east of the junction; **Tritton Gardens**, Both sides, from its junction with Burmarsh Road, south west for a distance of 21 metres; ROADS IN NEW ROMNEY: **Church Approach**, Both sides, for its entire length; **Church Road**, Both sides, from its junction with Station Road to its junction with Church Approach; South east side, from its junction with Church Lane, south west for a distance of 16 metres; North west side, from its junction with Church Approach, south west for a distance of 46 metres; North west side, from a point 76 metres south east of its junction with Church Approach, to its junction with Victoria Street; Both sides, from its junction with Church Road, south east for a distance of 13.5 metres; **Langport Road**, Both sides, from its junction with Station Road, north east for a distance of 26 metres; **Littlestone Road**, North east side, from a point 47.5 metres south west of its southern junction with Warren Road to its junction with Station Road; South west side, from a point 24 metres south east of its junction with Station Approach, to its junction with Station Road; **Mountfield Road**, Both sides, from its junction with Station Road, south west for a distance of 46 metres; **Station Road**, North east side, from its junction with Littlestone Road, to a point 46 metres north west of its junction with Langport Road; South west side, from its junction with Littlestone Road, to a point 41 metres north west of its junction with Mountfield Road; **Warren Road (north west junction)**, Both sides, from its junction with Littlestone Road, north east for a distance of 59 metres; **Warren Road (south east junction)**, Both sides, from its junction with Littlestone Road, north for a distance of 46 metres

No stopping at any time on the following roads:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE: **Park Farm Road**, West side, from a point 39 metres north of its junction with Radnor Park Road, north for a distance of 26 metres; ROADS IN NEW ROMNEY: **Church Road**, North west side, from a point 46 metres south west of its junction with Church Approach, south west for a distance of 27 metres

Revocation of no waiting at any time from the following roads:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE: **Holywell Avenue**, Both sides, from a point 340 metres west of its junction with Canterbury Road (A260), west for a distance of 30 metres including the western and southern area of the turning head

A copy of the proposed Order, a copy of any Orders which may be amended by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing it can be inspected during normal office hours at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (Amendment 15), Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email TRO.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Amendment 15" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 9th June 2014 for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

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Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

14/01453/HOUSE 1 Cherryfields, Benenden, Benenden
- Construction of timber framed clay tile roofed garage(CA)

14/01381/HOUSE The Granary, Hale Farm, Capel
- Two storey side extension and new porch (LB)

14/01384/LBC The Granary, Hale Farm, Capel
- Listed Building Consent: Two storey side extension and new porch (LB)

14/01013/LBC Tower Cottage, Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Window in garden wall facing road, roof light in higher position, flue and reposition door to garden (amendment to Listed Building Consent TW/12/02785/ LBC) (LB)

14/01092/LBC Whites, Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst
- Replace existing windows to south elevation and all dormer windows (LB)

14/01305/FULL Bethany School, Jarvis Lane, Goudhurst
- Single storey swimming pool enclosure with associated external works (PROW)

14/01364/FULL Oast Cottage , Risebridge Farm, Goudhurst
- Conversion of the upper floors of Risebridge Oasthouse from 4 self-contained residential dwellings to a single dwelling (LB)

14/01370/LBC Oast Cottage Risebridge Farm, Goudhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Conversion of the upper floors of Risebridge Oasthouse from 4 self-contained residential dwellings to a single dwelling (LB)

14/01340/HOUSE Potters Farm, Potters Lane, Hawkhurst
- Extension to single storey outbuilding and construction of new glazed link (LB)

14/01346/LBC Potters Farm, Potters Lane, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Extension to single storey outbuilding and construction of new glazed link (LB)

14/01159/FULL The Place, 17 - 19 Chapel Place, Pantiles & St Marks
- Alterations to ground floor frontages, replacement of windows on no.19, reinstatement of light well, erection of railings (LB) (CA)

14/01257/FULL 39 - 41 The Pantiles Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Change of use from office space to A3 (cafe)/A4 (pub). Reinstating of previous opening in an internal wall (approximately 30x30cm) (LB) (CA)

14/01259/LBC 39 - 41 The Pantiles Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent: Change of use from office space to A3 (cafe)/A4 (pub). Reinstating of previous opening in an internal wall (approximately 30x30cm) (LB)

14/01277/HOUSE 17 Shandon Close,Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Single-storey rear extension, first floor side extension, internal alterations and driveway extension (CA)

14/01415/LBC First And Second Floors, 94 Mount Pleasant Road, Park
- Listed Building Consent: Change of use from tuition school (D1) to 2 no. residential apartments (C3) and associated internal alterations (LB)

14/01416/FULL First And Second Floors, 94 Mount Pleasant Road, Park
- Change of use from tuition school (D1) to 2 no. residential apartments (C3) and associated internal alterations (CA) (LB)

14/01428/FULL 37 Hastings Road Pembury, Pembury
- Creation of hard standing to front of existing bed and breakfast (CA)

14/01339/HOUSE Corner Cottage, Holden Road, Southborough Town Council
- Single storey and two storey side extensions. Changes to fenestration (CA)

14/01398/HOUSE 6 Sheffield Road, Southborough, Southborough Town Council
- Loft conversion (including rear dormer), single storey rear and side extensions (CA)

14/01377/HOUSE Somerden Langton Road, Speldhurst
- Erection of garden shed (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 17 May 2014

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/14/00355 Installation of replacement double glazed windows
80 New Street, Sandwich, CT13 9BD **CON**

DOV/14/00419 Installation of a solar farm, ancillary equipment, 2.4m high fencing and provision of hedgerow and tree planting
Land at Chapmans Hill, Aylesham, Canterbury, CT15 4LS **RMLB**

DOV/14/00459 Erection of a first floor front extension and conservatory extension
The Nook, Easole Heights, Nonington, CT15 4EY **RCAF**

DOV/14/00264 Installation of replacement windows and weatherboarding
Various Flats, Canadian Estate, Melbourne Avenue, Dover, CT16 **MAJ**

Reason for Advert Codes:-
CON – Within Conservation Area **MAJ** – Major Development
RCAF - Affecting a Conservation Area and a public right of way
RMLB proposal is a major development, affects the setting of a listed building and affects a public right of way

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS)

(PROVISION OF ON-STREET DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING PLACES)

CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012 (AMENDMENT NO. 6)

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes to install disabled persons parking places in the following streets: -

22 Heritage Road, Folkestone; 21 St Winifred Road, Folkestone; 14 Quain Court, Sandgate Road, Folkestone; 32 Bolton Road, Folkestone; 59 Greenfield Road, Folkestone; 45 Burrow Road, Folkestone; 6 St Marks Close, Folkestone; 8 New Road, Saltwood.

This Order also proposes to revoke disable persons' parking places from the following streets: -

5 Elmstead Place, Folkestone; 29 Brabner Close, Folkestone; 15 Langdon Road, Folkestone; 11 Grimston Gardens, Folkestone; 6 Dunkirk Close, Dymchurch; 10 Dunkirk Close, Dymchurch

A copy of the proposed Order, a copy of any Orders which may be amended by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing it can be inspected during normal office hours at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (DPPB Consultation), Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email DPPB.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Amendment 6" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 9th June 2014 for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2013
(PROHIBITION OF LOADING) ORDER 2013
(PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2013
(STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, having considered all representations made in connection with the above named Orders, has decided that the provisions contained within the Orders should be made permanent. The temporarily suspended restrictions in Mill Street and the High Street from its junction with Mill Street south westwards, to its junction of Fairmeadow (A229), Maidstone which have been replaced with new waiting, loading and access restrictions have therefore been revoked. This work is connected with environmental highway improvements in the High Street which has been the subject of earlier consultations

Following on from the consultation which began in April 2013 on the proposals for experimental restrictions in the High Street, Maidstone, area, the Kent County Council has decided the experiment for the south western section of the scheme including Mill Street and the High Street from Mill Street south westwards, to its junction of Fairmeadow (A229) has been successful and has therefore been made permanent.

The proposals for the Maidstone High Street Public Realm Project aim to improve how the High Street looks, feels and works. The completed scheme will see less road space given over to vehicles and a new public space created in front of the Town Hall.

Exemptions are provided in the Orders to enable a vehicle to wait with Police permission, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent to the roads affected by the proposals, for use by the emergency services and by any local authority or water authority and for access to off street facilities, car parking areas and vehicular accesses.

Copies of the Orders which shall come into operation Monday **19th May 2014** showing the extent of the scheme can be inspected during normal working hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone Kent, ME14 1XQ and at Maidstone Borough Council Offices, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6HQ, or are available to view on the Kent County Council website

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

John Burr
Director for Kent Highways
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XQ

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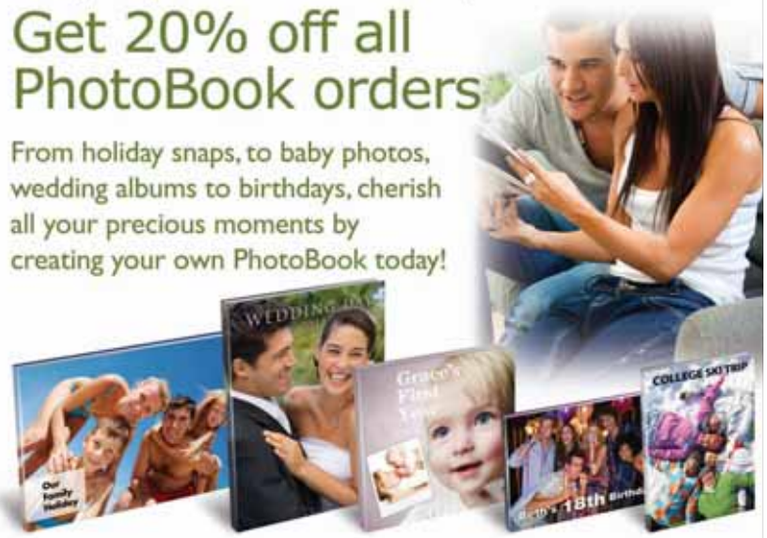

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How the team from Crabble

Dover Athletic produced an incredible late-season surge to propel themselves into non-league football's top division. **David Mairs** looks back… and ahead.

THE players' celebrations at the end of Saturday's Skrill South play-off final in the torrential rain of Stonebridge Road had many among the massed ranks of Dover Athletic fans yelling for everyone to just get on with the trophy presentation, but the cavorting, leaping and cheering on the pitch were evidence of just what the 1-0 win over Kent rivals Ebbsfleet United meant to the club from the Channel coast.

After a 12-year absence from the top flight of non-league football, Dover knew that next season they would be playing in The Skrill Premier (the Conference, in old money).

Nathan Elder's 56th-minute header from a Ricky Modeste corner settled a match that in driving wind and rain never hit the heights of quality but was all about the result.

With Dartford's relegation from The Skrill Premier just weeks ago and Ebbsfleet's falling at that final hurdle on their own patch, Dover are now Kent's premier non-league side.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of Dover's triumph this season was the manner in which it was achieved. With the 'regular' season drawing to its close, their chances of making the play-offs seemed slender. Their opportunity, many thought, had gone.

However, Barry Cogan held his nerve in the dying minutes of Dover's last league game of the season, at Hayes & Yeading, to fire home a match-winning penalty. The 2-1 victory, allied with Havant & Waterlooville's failure to win at already-relegated Tonbridge Angels, saw Dover take fifth spot by the skin of their teeth… or on goal difference, to put it another way.

The next hurdle came in the form of Sutton United, the team who had finished second in the table – 12 points ahead of Dover and most people's favourites to win through to the next level.

What followed was extraordinary. The first leg of the semi-final got off to the worst possible start as Dover fell behind in the 30th second, seemingly confirming the worst fears of the majority of the 1,273 Crabble crowd.

A Moses Ademola leveller just before half-time, however, restored the faith and Dover headed into the second leg in south London suburbia with hope if still the tag of underdogs.

How manager Chris Kinnear's men turned that idea on its head! To call their 3-0 win at Gander Green Lane triumph over adversity would be to under-sell quite what the team achieved.

With captain Craig Stone dismissed in the third minute, Dover had it all to do… and some. Sutton, it seemed, had one foot in the final.

At the end of the match, however, they were shell-shocked. Two Modeste goals and an Ademola strike had, quite simply, demolished them. The large Dover contingent in a crowd of 1,671 celebrated wildly. Awaiting them in the final would be Ebbsfleet, whose 4-0 first-leg win over Bromley at Stonebridge Road had rendered their 1-0 reverse in the return fixture effectively irrelevant.

And so we came to that Saturday afternoon and a clash billed by some as a grudge match courtesy of Steve Brown's departure in May last year from Dover, where he had been first-team coach, and subsequent move to Ebbsfleet, where he took on the manager's role and promptly signed six players from Dover.

All good stuff for certain sections of the media, but Dover chairman Jim Parmenter played down any talk of animosity.

"I don't think you can have grudges in football," he said. "It's all water under the bridge and, as I often say, there's no future in the past. There was a difficult situation at the time and we had to deal with that. There might have been some element of grudge with the fans and even with some of the players, but there wasn't with the club as a whole. Yes, it can add spice, but in my eyes you have to look forward."

The matter in hand was, of course, reaching The Skrill Premier and those at Dover could have been forgiven for being a little caught out by the magnitude of the occasion given the 11th-hour swing in fortunes that had brought them there. That was not the case, though, said Parmenter.

"I think there was a degree of people who took the view that our season was over five or six weeks ago, but we didn't see it that way. We don't expect the worst and we don't expect the best – we just keep plugging away."

The eventual ascent to non-league's top tier was perhaps viewed by some as inevitable after the glorious romp out of the Isthmian League with successive promotions in 2007-08 and 2008-09. Might this promotion have been expected sooner?

"You have to take the circumstances around each event," said Parmenter. "We had the two promotions with Andy Hessenthaler as manager and finished second in our first year in Conference South, but it was widely known that Andy was heading back to Gillingham and we lost some momentum.

"We then had to start with a new manager and rebuild – sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't."

Perhaps what was inevitable was that it was Kinnear, returning to the club after a previous 10-year stint as manager from 1985-95, who would lead them back to that non-league summit.

"I've worked with Chris at Margate as well as Dover, so we've known each other a long time," said Parmenter. "We know how each other works and perhaps I'm used to his ways of doing things whereas others aren't."

No one, it should be stressed, was taking anything for granted, but it was hard to escape the feeling that circumstance, fate, the stars, call it what you will, was creating an unstoppable force from Crabble.

A third play-off final in three seasons… surely this was Dover's year.

"You have to recognise that we had the best away record in non-league football, from The Skrill Premier all the way down to the Kent League.

"We were confident after the draw at home to Sutton that we had a good chance of making it through to the final, although going down to 10 men wasn't part of the plan."

Ahh, plans. Now they will have to be made. Life next season in The Skrill Premier will be very different to how it has been in recent seasons.

Not only will the standard of opposition be markedly improved, with several teams operating in a full-time, professional capacity, but there are such matters as ground standards and the whole administration surrounding football at a higher level to be addressed.

"It's a whole different ball game," said Parmenter. "There are teams like Bristol Rovers and Grimsby Town, teams that, with due respect to the teams in Conference South, are at a completely different level.

"As for the ground, we've had an A grading for two years, so there's very little that needs doing.

"We've got a new full-time groundsman, our secretary Frank Clarke does things on a voluntary basis and is absolutely brilliant and our security operations – things like CCTV, safety officers and stewards – are all up to the standard required.

"Some people said we were over the top with the level we were at, but we had it all in place just for this type of occurrence."

Parmenter and Kinnear are "in conversation" about the playing staff for next season, with the chairman under no illusions about the size of the task ahead.

"Clearly some strengthening of the squad is needed. As I said, it's a different ball game," said the chairman

One game at a time, as they say. Indeed one season at a time, but you can't avoid the truth that the next step is the Football League. Is it a step that Dover Athletic might one day be looking to take?

"One of the things about where we are is that expectation levels have to drop," said Parmenter. "We're at the non-league pinnacle now and it will be a slow process of rebuilding – the first priority is to stay in the division, which is a very different place to what it was even five or six years ago.

"But, yes, we want to progress and if we one day find ourselves in a position to do that, then we will look to do so."

stole the show

Pictures: ADY KERRY

WHAT A DAY! Clockwise from top left… the players celebrate their triumph; heads I win; Dover fans wave goodbye to their departing Ebbsfleet counterparts; it was a wet day; chairman Jim Parmenter; Athletic's Tom Wynter in action

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Kent trio picked for England hockey World Cup squad

THREE Kent hockey players will be representing England at the World Cup, which starts in The Netherlands at the end of this month.

Holcombe have two players named in head coach Bobby Crutchley's 18-man squad – Barry Middleton, who will be captain, and Dan Fox. Joining them will be Ashley Jackson, who lives in Kent and plays for East Grinstead.

England are in Pool A with Australia, Belgium, India, Malaysia and Spain. The top two qualify for the semi-finals.

Crutchley said: "There isn't an easy game at a World Cup and we're facing some quality opposition. However, I've seen this team consistently improve over the last 12 months and I think we can be contenders for a top-two finish."

England's first match is against Spain on Saturday, May 31, at 4.30pm (UK time).

SKIP: Barry Middleton

FIVE-FOR: Kent's Darren Stevens

Kent miss out as rain ruins match

KENT had to concede to a draw at Derby on Wednesday in an LV= County Championship Division Two match ruined by the weather.

With more than two days lost to rain, an enterprising approach was required if a positive result was to be achieved and Kent captain Rob Key provided it by declaring at 235-6.

His bowlers, however, failed to prise apart Derbyshire openers Stephen Moore and Paul Borrington and the home side finished on 106-0.

Kent had earlier dismissed the home side for just 118 in their first innings, Darren Stevens and Doug Bollinger taking five wickets apiece.

Kent take nine points from the match and Derbyshire seven.

Gills release 10 from contracts

GILLINGHAM have released the following players from their contracts: Sam Baxter, George Howard, Gary Borrowdale, Joe Carter, Craig Fagan, Steven Gregory, Charlie Lee, Myles Weston, Adam Birchall and Nathan Nyafli (retired).

Stephen Butcher and Sam Muggleton have also left the club.

Steve McKimm is new Angels boss

TONBRIDGE Angels have appointed Steve McKimm as their first-team manager.

McKimm was previously head coach at Conference South side Sutton United and has worked with Margate, Gravesend & Northfleet, Kingstonian, Farnborough, Hayes and Dulwich Hamlet.

Tredwell could be facing Sri Lanka

KENT'S James Tredwell has been selected for the England squads to play Sri Lanka in their t20 and ODI series, starting this month.

The off-spinner is in the 13-man t20 party and 14-man ODI squad and the first match for which he will be in contention is the t20 fixture at the Kia Oval on Tuesday (May 20).

The Aussies are coming to Canterbury

KENT will host Australia at Canterbury next summer.

The England Cricket Board has announced the schedule for the touring team and they will be heading for Canterbury for their opening fixture.

The four-day match will be played at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury, from Thursday to Sunday, June 25-28.

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